

BUSINESS/BI

Consumers see better times ahead, job outlook good, BSP survey notes

SUPER/CI

KC's carousel: 10 happy ways to reuse things around the house

METRO/A15

Another 'shabu resto' raided in Pasig, 12 people arrested

NEWS/A2

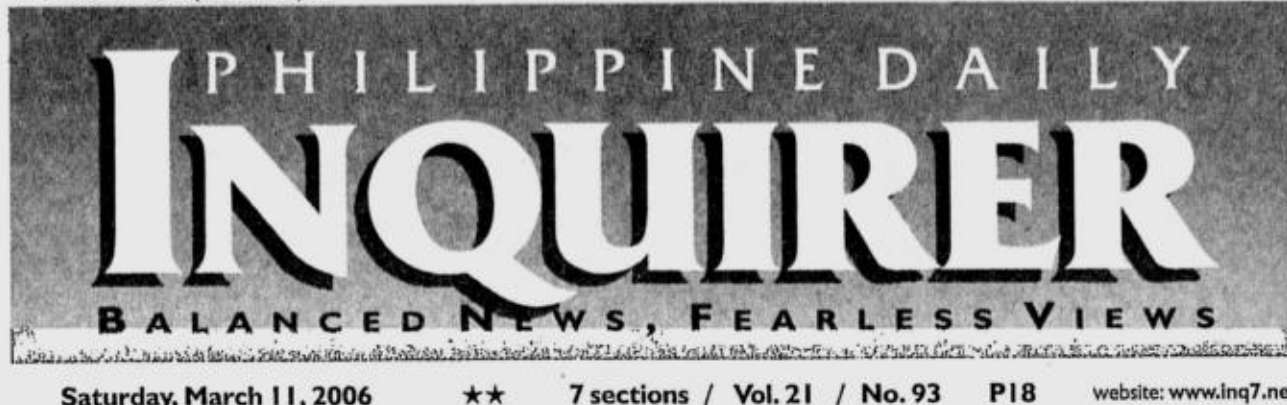
Drilon accuses NTC of abusing authority over media control

Been there, done that; Kit warns against censorship



By Leila B. Salaverria
TAKE IT FROM SOMEONE who's been there and has done that.
Former Sen. Francisco Tatad yesterday warned President Macapagal-Arroyo against an international backlash following

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph



Saturday, March 11, 2006

★★

7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 93

P18

website: www.inq7.net

DOJ, BIR blame each other for bungled smuggling

By Michael Lim Ubac and Armand N. Nocum

AS EARLY AS 2003, THE REGISTRATION PAPERS of four dummy corporations belonging to suspected top smuggler Samuel Lee had already been revoked by the Securities and Exchange Commission, but the Department of Justice Thursday did nothing to go after their tax liabilities.

DOJ/A7

'Restiveness may erupt'

Biazon warns, if crackdown continues; but AFP says no amnesty

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan, TJ Burgonio and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE ARMED FORCES yesterday declared that no amnesty was forthcoming for "habitual delinquents" as Sen. Rodolfo Biazon warned that the crackdown on suspected coup plotters could fan military "restiveness into action."

"The stand of the [AFP] is no amnesty because of the lessons learned. We have habitual delinquents. These are the same persons who were involved in incidents in the late '80s," said military spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison.

Kison did not name names, but Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim of the Scout Rangers and Col. Ariel Querubin of the Marine Corps—both relieved of their high posts for allegedly planning to withdraw support from President Macapagal-Arroyo last Feb. 24—led the bloody coup attempt against the Aquino administration in 1989.

The two men and the rest of the rebel Young Officers Union (YOU) were later granted amnesty by the Ramos administration.

The crackdown has extended to the Marine Corps, with Brig. Gen. Nelson Allaga, its new commandant, ordering a probe of the Feb. 26 standoff at the Marine headquarters. In that standoff, Querubin led Marines in protesting the sudden relief of the then commandant, Maj. Gen. Renato Miranda.

The Army is conducting its own investigation into the supposed coup plot and has reported

RESTIVENESS/A6



BROKEN HEARTS, BROKEN LIVES

Shootout at a beauty parlor ended in the killing of two men and the woman they both loved. The carnage happened inside a beauty salon whose glass façade was cracked by bullets in Sugartowne Filinvest Road II, Batasan Hills, Quezon City. (Story in Metro, Page A16.)

JOAN BONDOC

Now it can be told: Why 'withdrawal' plot failed

By Tony S. Bergonia

(Editor's Note: For obvious reasons, sources for this story would have to remain unnamed. But they are known to the editors to be in a position to have had a first-hand knowledge of the events leading to the Feb. 24 aborted "withdrawal of support.")

THE COUNTRY CAME CLOSE TO being run by what its architects want to describe as a military caretaker group that planned to take over government briefly and force the immediate holding of elections amid the continuing crisis over whether President Macapagal-Arroyo had really won the May 2004 election.

Sources close to a group of generals and colonels who drew the blueprint for the takeover said the plan called for a bloodless maneuver with the highest officers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines doing only one thing—withdrawal of support from their Commander in Chief.

The source, an AFP insider, said all the major service commanders—the chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force—were briefed about the plan.

All, but one, expressed either willingness to be considered in, or to wait on the sidelines. The only service commander who would have nothing to do with the plan was Army chief Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, according to the source.

"He (Esperon) was afraid that when a new government is in place, he would be investigated

NOW IT CAN/A6

GMA to review, may amend mining law

By Christian V. Esguerra

APPARENTLY BOWING TO PRESSURE from the influential Catholic Church, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday agreed to review the controversial Mining Act of 1995, a law that opens full ownership of local mining projects to foreign investors.

After a two-hour, closed-door

meeting with five Catholic bishops at the Traders Hotel in Manila, the President assured the prelates from the country's most active mining areas that she would work to have the mining law reviewed and possibly amended.

The bishops earlier assailed Republic Act No. 7492, otherwise known as the Mining Act of 1995, for allegedly "destroying life" and

called for the cancellation of all mining concessions.

Ms Arroyo was accompanied by Speaker Jose de Venecia, Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes, National Economic Development Authority chief Romulo Neri and Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor.

"(We) agreed with our beloved bishops that we will review the

Mining Act immediately," De Venecia told reporters after the meeting. He said he would ask the Congress committee on environment and natural resources headed by Rep. Leovigildo Banaag to immediately look at the possible amendment of provisions in the Mining Act.

The Speaker said Congress would integrate the strongest

GMA/A4



BILL GATES, \$50B
No. 1 for 12th straight year



LUCIO TAN, \$1.7B
No. 451



HENRY SY & family, \$1.5B
No. 512



JAIME ZOBEL & family, \$1.3B
No. 606

Tan, Sy, Zobel on Forbes billionaires' list

THE PHILIPPINES MAY BE REGARDED as a poor country, but it apparently has enough capacity to produce three billionaires (in dollars), according to Forbes magazine's annual list released yesterday.

The number of people whose wealth reached 10 figures stood at a record 793, an increase of 102 from the previous year. This includes tobacco king Lucio Tan, Asia's mall king, Henry Sy and the owner of the Philippines' biggest conglomerate, Jaime Zobel de

Ayala and family, according to the magazine's list for 2006.

Forbes ranked Tan, 71, at No. 451, disclosing his fortune at \$1.7 billion; Henry Sy, 81, and family at No. 512 with \$1.5 billion and Ayala, 71, and family at No. 606 with \$1.3 billion.

Microsoft founder Bill Gates gained ground at the top of the megarich rankings as the world's wealthiest people added \$400 billion to their net worth.

The \$50-billion fortune of Gates, in first place for the 12th

straight year, marked an increase of \$3.5 billion from the 2005 Forbes list.

The magazine said strong markets around the world contributed to the surge in wealth, as the total net worth of the list jumped to \$2.6 trillion—more than the annual gross domestic product of Germany.

"Making 'a' billion just isn't what it used to be," observed Forbes associate editor Luisa Kroll, who noted that the number of billionaires had grown by more

than 300 in the past three years.

While US names accounted for nearly half the fortunes on the roster, this year's ranking was notable for the influx of newcomers from Brazil, India, Russia and other emerging economies.

Oil baron and Chelsea football club owner Roman Abramovich jumped 10 places to 11th in the global ranking with a nest egg of \$18.2 billion.

"Why is the list growing? The answer is an obvious one—the

TAN/A7

Bulacan now killing fields of militants

By Carmela Reyes and Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

CITY OF MALOLOS—BULACAN has turned into a "killing field" of members and leaders of militant organizations, an official of a human rights group in the province said following the murder of another militant leader on Thursday.

Santiago Teodoro, chair of the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan in Bulacan, was gunned down as he was driving in Barangay Barihan at 9 p.m. Thursday. He was the 20th militant leader killed in the province since 2005 and the 47th in Central Luzon, according to Bayan records.

Fr. Rolando de Leon, spokesperson of the Alyansa ng

BULACAN/A4

DepEd gives 68 Leyte orphans scholarships

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau and Cynthia D. Balana

TACLOBAN CITY—THE Department of Education has assured 68 high school students of Barangay Guinsaugon, orphaned during the Feb. 17 killer landslide in Southern Leyte, that they would finish their studies.

Alberto Escobarte, DepEd as-

sistant regional director, announced this Thursday during the formal launching of "Project Guinsaugon: Tabang Kabataan" at the St. Bernard Central School.

Escobarte said that under the project, 68 students would be given scholarship grants and financial assistance through a trust fund set up by the DepEd.

Under the project, orphaned student-survivors—half of

DEPED/A7

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon and the Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rain showers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Palawan which may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy with isolated rain showers.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI RESEARCH/03/10/06

SOURCE: PAGASA

Second FRONT PAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Halo/Haloed	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Partly Cloudy	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

NTC abused its authority – Drilon

By Philip C. Tubeza and Christine O. Avendaño

SENATE PRESIDENT FRANKLIN DRILON HAS ACCUSED the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) of abusing its authority when it threatened to shut down broadcast stations and deployed police and army troops around their premises.

"They have arrogated unto themselves the powers which are not theirs," Drilon said at the Senate hearing on Thursday on the government crackdown on media during the state of emergency.

He said the NTC's alleged abuse of authority should be stopped immediately.

"Apparently, they are utilizing the power of the Philippine National Police and the Armed Forces of the Philippines. They may have no power under the law, but (once) they order the stationing of the troops at the gates of the television station, we can (only) jump up and down and say they have no power," Drilon said.

"When they have the power of the barrel of the gun, then you can imagine the chilling effect that it

has on the citizenry. This is what should be objected to," he added.

In a position paper submitted to the Senate, the NTC claimed it had the power "to suspend or revoke the authorization granted to a broadcast entity upon prior notice and hearing" under the 1936 Public Services Act.

"The commission shall have the power...to suspend or revoke any certificate issued under the provision of this Act whenever the holder thereof has violated or willfully and contumaciously refused to comply with any order, rule or regulation of the commission or any provision of this Act," the NTC said, quoting the 1936 law.

But the "commission" mentioned in the law referred to the Public Service Commission,

High gov't exec, not Palace official

DURING THE SENATE HEARING, Maria Ressa, head of the news division of ABS-CBN, said a high-ranking government official called a company executive asking the network to stop the coverage of the standoff at the Marine headquarters in Fort Bonifacio on Feb. 26.

The INQUIRER had earlier quoted Ressa as saying that a Palace official had called up ABS-CBN. Yesterday, Ressa wrote the INQUIRER to clarify that she was actually referring to an "administration" and "high-ranking government official." She would not identify the official.

Ressa said the network refused, partly because it would have created more public panic.

which was abolished in 1972. But the NTC claimed it had inherited many of the PSC powers.

Drilon said the NTC had no power to cancel franchises or take over broadcast entities that air materials that are allegedly seditious, stressing that NTC's

Although he was not alluded to, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor yesterday denied calling up ABS-CBN to stop airing its live broadcast of the Marines standoff.

While acknowledging that he did appeal to journalists to stop covering the event, Defensor said he did not know whether anyone from the Palace called up the network to do the same.

But Defensor told reporters he did talk to Ressa and their conversation centered on the appeal he had made on that day.

"I told her it was really providential. I said I was worried that things may evolve differently and may result to violence, that was what I was worried about," Defensor said.

only powers were to allocate frequencies and collect fees.

"Clearly they (NTC) abused their authority," he said, adding that the agency's primary duty was to traffic airwaves.

Drilon added that since it was Congress that granted the fran-

chises of broadcast media, it should be the one to decide whether to cancel such franchises.

He said there was no need for NTC to impose prior restraint on broadcast stations since they have their own code of ethics to "effectively guide them in the practice of the profession."

During the hearing, ABS-CBN news executive Luchi Cruz-Valdez said the NTC also tried to co-opt the press in coming out with "media guidelines" when it called for a meeting with broadcast industry leaders hours after the state of emergency was declared on Feb. 24.

"They were basically co-opting us to come up with guidelines which was, for us, a strange thing to do. So, we were insisting that we already had guidelines in the form of code of ethics. Each station had it and the (Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster sa Pilipinas) already had it but they were insistent on meeting with us," Valdez said.

But the NTC said in its position paper that it "repeatedly emphasized during the course of the meeting that it will not be the judge of the contents of the broadcast matter."

Malacañang also denied that the government was muzzling the media and welcomed a legal petition from journalists against press censorship.

"The fact that they can go to court is a clear indication that democracy reigns in this country," Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said in a statement.

Bunye said the government's moves against the media stood "on solid operational and legal grounds" and called a "responsible media a force for freedom and a partner in reform."

In a petition Wednesday, nine journalists' groups and news organizations and about three dozen senior news people said the "threat of official intervention" through administrative sanctions or prosecution is as damaging to a free press as actual intervention.

During the one-week state of emergency, police raided the Daily Tribune, a newspaper critical of President Macapagal-Arroyo, but did not prevent its publication or control its content. The publisher and two columnists were, however, charged with inciting to sedition.

PCGG says it never exercised control over 4 Lucio Tan firms

By Alcuin Papa

THE PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION on Good Government has clarified that it has never exercised control over the shares of the four sequestered companies owned by Chinese-Filipino tycoon Lucio Tan because of the "legal resistance" put up by Tan and his lawyers.

Nor was any PCGG personnel sent to enforce the sequestration order ever able to set foot inside the premises of the four companies from the time they were sequestered in 1986, said PCGG Commissioner William Dichoso.

"No government interference was ever made as far as our records are concerned. No nominees, no comptroller was allowed to be assigned to all these companies. So the government despite

the writs of sequestration did not in any manner interfere with [the] operation and management of these companies," Dichoso said.

He was reacting to a Sandiganbayan ruling, dated March 2 but released only last Wednesday, ordering the government to "cease further involvement" in the control and management of the four Tan companies.

The PCGG, which is tasked to recover the ill-gotten wealth of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, his family and associates, said it would appeal the decision, and if needed, go all the way up to the Supreme Court.

Dichoso said it was important to maintain the writ of sequestration on the Tan companies to prevent Tan from disposing of them or dissipating their assets, as

there was still a pending forfeiture case involving the four companies.

Even if the PCGG was not able to exercise control over the Tan assets, if they are covered by a writ of sequestration and there is a pending case, Tan "cannot dispose, encumber or sell these assets without first asking the court's approval," said Dichoso.

Dichoso and another commissioner Nicasio Conti said the Sandiganbayan decision lifting the sequestration on the Tan companies had, if anything, strengthened the PCGG's position on the forfeiture case against the tycoon.

They said the government was still in contention to win the main issue of ownership of the companies under Civil Case No. 005, the

main forfeiture case against Tan.

"The complaint alleges that Lucio Tan by himself or in concert with the Marcoses and the other defendants took undue advantage of their relationship with the Marcoses to acquire and accumulate the ill-gotten wealth," Conti said.

Conti warned that if the sequestration on the four companies is lifted, and Tan starts disposing of them, if the PCGG were to win the forfeiture case, "the government will be left holding an empty bag."

The trial for the forfeiture case will start on March 27.

The two PCGG commissioners said the Sandiganbayan decision actually strengthened the forfeiture case, noting that the ruling said most of the 190 documents presented by the PCGG as evidence

"provides ample reason for the court to find that the bulk of the documents at

best constitutes or tends to show proof that the properties covered therein are truly 'ill-gotten wealth.'"

"That portion strengthened our position on the issue of ill-gotten wealth because of the 190 documents submitted, only a few were considered irrelevant to the case. The rest, even the court said, tends to show that that is truly ill-gotten wealth," Dichoso said.

He said PCGG is claiming 68 percent of Allied Bank, 92 percent of Foremost Farms, 99 percent of Fortune Tobacco and 79 percent of Shareholdings Inc., adding that the claims of other shareholders would have to be decided by the courts.

Despite a writ of sequestration, the PCGG "never had access to any of these corporations," said Dichoso. He said that some of the personnel sent to enforce the sequestration order were even charged criminally.

"There was strong resistance.

If you're being charged left and right with criminal cases, you will not be able to pursue (the sequestration)," he said.

The PCGG seized Allied Bank on June 19, 1986 on the strength of a writ signed by then PCGG chair Jovito Salonga and commissioner Ramon Diaz.

On July 24, 1986, the PCGG also took control of Fortune Tobacco and Shareholdings Inc. The last to be seized was Fortune Farms on Aug. 12, 1986.

Tan filed a petition in September 1986 asking the Supreme Court to nullify the sequestration orders, on the ground that they were signed by only two commission members. The high court referred the matter back to the Sandiganbayan.

Dichoso and Conti said the PCGG was open to a compromise agreement on the four sequestered companies of Tan, the same stance it has taken on the companies acquired with the con-

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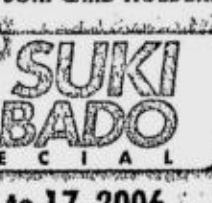
Oil firms reduce prices of cooking gas

tañer and Sabay paid him and the other suspects P120,000 to kill Esperat. **Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau**

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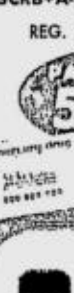
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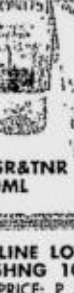
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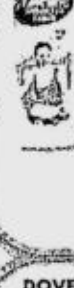
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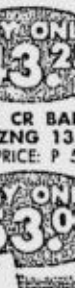
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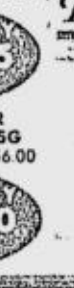
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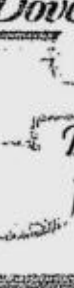
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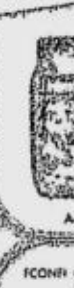
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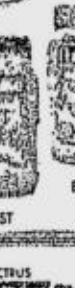
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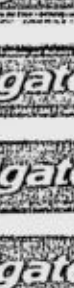
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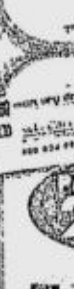
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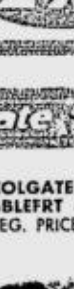
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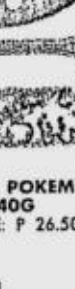
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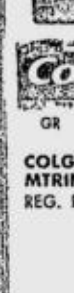
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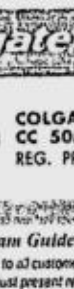
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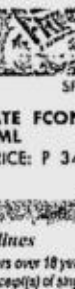
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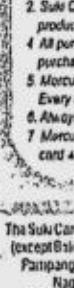
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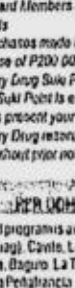
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COLGATE FCONFI CITRUS 50

Bulacan now killing fields of militants

From page A1

Mamamayan para sa Pantaong Karapatan, attributed the string of killings in the province to the military.

"Bulacan turned into a killing field when the military came. That's the time when the number of cases of murder, abduction, etc. increased," he said, adding that the attacks intensified when Maj. Gen. Jovito Palparan assumed command of the Army's 7th Infantry Division last September.

Palparan has denied military involvement in the killings.

De Leon and Fr. Vicente Ignacio, secretary general of Bayan-Bulacan, demanded the pullout of soldiers from the province and called on Army officials to respect the rights of citizens.

But Col. Noel Clement, commander of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion in Norzagaray town, said: "It is sad that everything is being blamed on us."

Clement said the military presence in Bulacan was aimed at ensuring peace and order.

Silence

De Leon lamented the silence of Bulacan officials on the killings.

He said his group suspected the military to be behind the attacks because those killed were considered "enemies of the state" or suspected to be members or sympathizers of the communist New People's Army.

He cited the case of Rogelio Concepcion, 36, chapter coordinator of the labor group Anakpawis in San Ildefonso town, who was abducted on Monday night.

Concepcion's relatives and colleagues believe that he has been killed by his abductors.

Teodoro was driving with his wife late Thursday when two motorcycle-riding men pulled up next

to their car and fired shots, hitting him in the neck, his wife Lucila told Manila radio station dzRH.

"I heard a pop, and I thought it was just glass breaking. Suddenly, I noticed a motorbike beside us, and I looked in my husband's direction and saw his body already limp," she said.

Foiled attempt

In another incident yesterday, the secretary general of the Bayan Muna party in Isabela escaped a slay attempt.

Baby Mendiola, 54, said she suffered bruises when she sought cover from two men who tried to shoot her in her house in Echague town.

She said one of the men, who was armed with a .45-cal. pistol, shot at her house before fleeing with his companion.

In Baguio City, Joan Carling, chair of the Cordillera Peoples Alliance, said the military had included in its "order of battle" activist leaders in the region.

"We feel intensified harassment [from the government] with the release of this hit list," Carling said, adding:

"We expose the human rights violations and antipeople policies of the government, and we feel that this hit list's aim is to paralyze our activities and our membership and weaken our influence on the people."

But Lt. Col. Preme Monta, spokesperson of the Armed Forces Northern Luzon Command, denied that there was such a list.

"There is no such thing. If they say that they got the hit list from a very reliable source in the military, they should file a formal complaint before a proper agency," Monta said.

Creating a climate

On Thursday, activists commemorated the first death anniversary of Romeo Sanchez, a Bayan

LIST OF MURDERED LEADERS AND MEMBERS OF PARTY-LIST GROUPS

(Data sourced from the paper prepared by Bayan Muna-Extrajudicial killings, abductions and harassment of activists in the Philippines—downloaded last Oct. 26, 2005. Updates on the list are based on PDI reports.)

NAME	DATE	LOCATION	NAME	DATE	LOCATION
BAYAN MUNA			ANAKPAWIS		
1. Reason Tamilla	April 15, 2001	Mindoro Oriental	1. Pedro Peñares	November 2003	Compostela Valley
2. Isidro Manlangit	April 27, 2001	Ligao City, Albay	2. Olimpio Crome	unverified	Bray, Surigao, Cebu, Bohol
3. Peter Dacanay	April 30, 2001	Calapan	3. Edna Gumenoy	April 21, 2003	Nabuan, Oriental Mindoro
4. Junia Mesa Jr.	May 13, 2001	Leyte	4. Adnan Alagata	Feb. 18, 2004	Sia Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
5. Ricardo Romero	June 2, 2001	Leguna	5. Edwin Mascarinas	April 15, 2004	Bongabong, Oriental Mindoro
6. Clemente Abian	June 23, 2001	Davao del Norte	6. Ignas Maneno Jr.	April 28, 2004	Calapan, Mindoro Oriental
7. Constancio Oadon	June 24, 2001	Mindoro Oriental	7. Samuel Bandilla	Oct. 15, 2004	Passeo de Legaspi, Tacloban City
8. Roberto Nepa	June 24, 2001	Davao del Norte	8. Elissar Monsalud	Dec. 4, 2004	Josefine, Zamboanga del Sur
9. Imelda Beiga	July 22, 2001	Labuan	9. Concepcion Monsalud	Dec. 4, 2004	Josefine, Zamboanga del Sur
10. Erwin Bazarra	Aug. 1, 2001	Mindoro Oriental	10. Charlie Monsalud	Dec. 4, 2004	Sia Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
11. Wilfredo Mananghaya	Sept. 20, 2001	Bulacan	11. Marcelino Beltran	Dec. 10, 2004	Deal, Camarines Sur
12. Rolando Cebagay	Oct. 6, 2001	Mindoro Oriental	12. Edmundo Salcedo	Dec. 24, 2004	Sia Cruz, Occidental Mindoro
13. Roger Fernando	Oct. 8, 2001	Mindoro Oriental	13. Francisco Galdito	Dec. 24, 2004	Deal, Camarines Sur
14. Felipe Lera	Oct. 25, 2001	Leguna	14. Pedro Lazona	Jan. 23, 2005	Tarlac
15. Sison de los Santos	Dec. 15, 2001	Antigala City	15. Crispin Amasona	Feb. 15, 2005	Dingalan, Aurora
16. Emilio Santanin	March 12, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	16. Ernesto Bang	March 10, 2005	Labo, Camarines Norte
17. Idelfonso Rucel	March 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	17. Jose Gumba	March 12, 2005	Donesol, Sorsogon
18. Wario Nagasao	March 20, 2002	Isabela Bayan Muna	18. Joel Tolia Reyes	March 16, 2005	Panganiban, Camarines Norte
19. Expedito Albarillo	April 8, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	19. Henry Flores	March 16, 2005	Mandaya City, Cebu
20. Manuel Albarillo	April 8, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	20. Victor Concepcion	March 17, 2005	Pampanga Anakpawis
21. Oyo Mangroza	May 8, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	21. Abner Delan	Jan. 23, 2005	Camarines Norte
22. Ruben Apinar	May 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental			
23. Rodrigo Apinar	May 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	GABRIELA		
24. Nina Angela Apinar	May 20, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	1. Susan Aringo	Dec. 7, 2003	Sorsogon
25. Expedito Napsa Jr.	May 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	2. May Carvajal	Aug. 27, 2004	Sia Cruz, Laguna
26. Eduardo Mardito	June 27, 2002	Mindoro Oriental			
27. Ruzo Concha	Aug. 24, 2002	Cebu	OTHERS		
28. Oscar Sordalan	Nov. 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	1. Albert Tarredaño	Nov. 29, 2005	Baguio, Abra
29. Vedasco Lalong-lalo	Nov. 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	2. Cathy Alcantara	Dec. 5, 2005	Abucay, Bataan
30. Anthony Martinez	Nov. 23, 2002	Mindoro Oriental	3. Antonio Adrales	Jan. 17, 2006	Mexico, Pampanga
31. John Soliano	May 15, 2003	Isabela			
32. Vicente Beco	Nov. 8, 2003	San Pablo, Laguna			
33. Romy Mainaban	Dec. 23, 2003	Bay, Laguna			
34. Felix Rosquitos	Jan. 8, 2004	Davao del Norte			
35. Juvy Magino	Feb. 13, 2004	Mindoro Oriental			
36. Leyna Fortu	Feb. 13, 2004	Mindoro Oriental			
37. Rodrigo Gago	April 1, 2004	Compostela Valley			
38. Jesus Bongalon	April 1, 2004	Bato, Camarines Sur			
39. Charlie M. Davao	April 24, 2004	Compostela Valley			
40. Genadi Pinamaylan	April 24, 2004	Compostela Valley			
41. Charlie Uina	April 24, 2004	Compostela Valley			
42. Rogelio Perez	April 29, 2004	Pagibabo, Quezon			
43. Conrado Kasibhak	May 13, 2004	Pagibabo, Quezon			
44. Hany Buduan	May 13, 2004	Compostela Valley			
45. Mary Cabalay	June 9, 2004	Pagibabo, Quezon			
46. Pablo Ignacio	Jan. 11, 2005	San Ildefonso, Bulacan			
47. Romeo Almagate	Feb. 6, 2005	Luguan, Cebu, Quezon			
48. Abel Ledera	March 3, 2005	Tarlac City, Tarlac			
49. Romy Sanchez	March 9, 2005	Baguio City, Benguet			
50. Atty. Felicio C. Dacul	March 14, 2005	Tacloban City, Leyte			
51. Alfredo Davis	April 16, 2005	Tacloban City, Leyte			
52. Eddie Dimasano	May 19, 2005	Camarines Sur			
53. Norman Bocar	Sept. 1, 2005	Borongan, Eastern Samar			

Muna leader in the Ilocos, who was gunned down in a public market.

The London-based Amnesty International said on Thursday that comments by ranking government officials linking left-wing groups to communist insurgents were threatening to "create a climate within which further political killings may take place."

The US State Department also highlighted the killings in its annual human rights report, posted on the US Embassy website.

"Killings of community activists, church workers, lawyers and mem-

bers of leftist political parties, particularly the left-wing political party Bayan Muna, increased during the year," the 2005 report said, adding that more than 40 activists, half of them party members, had been gunned down.

Killings, harassment

The US State Department concluded that the Philippine government "generally respected the human rights of its citizens," but noted that "pervasive weakness in the rule of law, official impunity and the wide disparity between

rich and poor contributed to cynicism about official justice."

"It looks like they are resuming the political killings, combined with political harassment against us," The Associated Press quoted Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo as saying.

Ocampo is one of five party-list lawmakers who are now in the custody of the House of Representatives following threats of arrest in connection with the supposed plot last month to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Bayan Muna said more than 80 of its members had been slain by the police and military since 2001. See list on this page.

But Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye denied that the government was behind the killings.

"It is not a state policy to trample on human rights," Bunye told radio station dwlZ.

He said "individual cases" would be investigated and justice would prevail. With reports from Villamor Visaya Jr. and Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau; AP

GMA to review, may possibly amend mining law

From page A1

possible safeguards for the environment and safety standards for mining communities, noting that the bishops were not against mining per se, but were against "irresponsible mining."

Very nice talk

The law was upheld in a landmark Supreme Court ruling in 2004, prompting a government drive to attract foreign investment to dig up an estimated \$1 trillion worth of mineral wealth.

"We had a very nice talk," Palawan Bishop Pedro Arigo said.

"At least she heard us. She seemed very nice, at least today," Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes quipped.

During the dialogue, Bastes told the President to "listen to the people, not the politicians," in deciding on mining issues.

Positive act

"If she is sincere in addressing [the problem of] corruption, this is her test case," he later told the media, noting that destructive mining operations existed largely with the help of corrupt public officials.

De Venecia requested the Church's National Secretariat for Social Action-Justice



ARROYO: A test case for sincerity.



DE VENECIA: Our beloved bishops

and Peace to gather complaints against mining, including their scientific bases, and submit a consolidated report to Congress "as soon as possible," said Sr. Roseanne Malilin, Nassa executive secretary.

According to De Venecia, the report would help the committee formed by Congress to look into the Mining Act.

"That was a positive sign on the part of the government to review the law," she told reporters.

But the bishops were still keeping their fingers crossed, hoping that Ms

Arroyo would indeed make good on her promise.

"We'll see if she's sincere in containing the evil effects of mining. The ball is in [her] hands," Bastes said.

"What will come out of this remains to be seen," Arigo said. "We are hoping and praying that the government will make good its promises."

Bastes and Arigo were accompanied by fellow prelates equally passionate about the mining issue, namely Bishop Reynaldo Evangelista of Boac, Antonio

Cabajog of Surigao, and Bishop Emeritus Francisco Claver of Bontoc-Lagawe.

Claver said the bishops made it clear to Ms Arroyo that they were "not against mining per se but on how it is practised in the Philippines now."

Environment laws

He said they also raised the issue of the "faulty and very weak" implementation of environmental laws, and the need to review RA 7492.

"There has to be a wide dialogue," he later told reporters. "Let the people speak out."

The positions raised by the bishops were consistent with the January pastoral letter of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines calling for a repeal of the law.

"Our experiences of environmental tragedies and incidents with the mining transnational corporations belie all assurances of sustainable and responsible mining that the Arroyo administration is claiming," the CBCP said.

In March 1996, tons of mining waste from a copper mill partly owned by Canada's Placer Dome spilled into the Boac River in Marinduque, causing millions of dollars' worth of damage.

"Increasing the number of mining affected communities, Christians and non-Christians alike are subjected to human rights violations and economic deprivations. We see no relief in sight," CBCP added.

AO on Lafayette

Bastes was visibly upbeat yesterday after Ms Arroyo informed him that an administrative order covering the specific functions and composition of the Rapu-Rapu commission was now ready.

He went straight to Malacañang after the affair to see the document for himself.

In a hastily arranged dinner with Bastes and some other bishops last Jan. 30, Ms Arroyo told the group that she was forming a commission to investigate the spill of toxic wastes by Lafayette Philippines Inc. in Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

In yesterday's dialogue, Bastes said he was appointed by the President as head of the 10-person commission.

He said the commission was tasked to gather information about the spill, including complaints from affected residents, and submit a recommendation within a month.

UP study

However, Lafayette said yesterday that tests made by the University of the Philippines-Natural Sciences Research Institute (UP-NSRI), on March 1 show that water and fish from around Rapu-Rapu Island and Sorsogon are safe for human consumption.

The UP study, Lafayette said in a press statement, reinforces the five previous studies of the Bureau of Fish and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) that the mercury contamination of Sorsogon fish and waters near Rapu-Rapu as alleged by anti-mining groups never existed.

According to the UP study, the surface water samples from all the 29 sampling stations in and around Rapu-Rapu as well as the eastern coast of Sorsogon, including Prieto Diaz and Bacon, were safe and had mercury and arsenic contents well below the allowed limits.

Fish fit to eat

It also said that the 11 kinds of fishes sampled in the same places were safe and fit for human consumption. The tests also cleared seawater around Rapu-Rapu and wastewater from Lafayette's Rapu-Rapu project.

The five previous tests conducted by BFAR showed that water and fish from Bagacay, Rizal, Barcelona and Prieto Diaz in Sorsogon were well within the allowed mercury limit.

Anti-mining groups from Sorsogon had said the Rapu-Rapu project in Albay, across the sea, was the source of mercury contamination in Sorsogon.

No mercury problem

The company, however, insisted that it does not use mercury in its operations and that Rapu-Rapu Island does not have a mercury problem.

These groups also claimed the company caused the skin problems of a few children. Government doctors who examined the children, however, said the condition was not caused by mercury but by bacterial infection, Lafayette said. With a report from Reuters

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3rd P250 + Trophy

Modified Novice
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2nd P500 + Trophy
3rd P250 + Trophy

Modified Expert
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Pag-IBIG Firms employing minors raided

reports P7.38-B income

By Jerome Aning

DON'T EMPLOY MINORS.

THE PAG-IBIG FUND, one of the leading state financial institutions and the biggest financier of public housing programs, posted a record P7.38 billion net income in 2005, the highest in its 25-year history.

Vice President Noli de Castro, who chairs the Pag-IBIG board of trustees, said net income increased by 14 percent from the P6.47 billion recorded in 2004.

De Castro noted the Fund's outstanding performance despite the political and economic crisis besetting the nation.

"Unlike other government corporations and institutions that are facing controversy, the Pag-IBIG Fund continues to remain a model of sound management and good governance," De Castro said.

Romero Quimbo, Pag-IBIG president and CEO, said the Fund's total assets reached P178.30 billion last year, a nine-percent increase over the P163.60 billion level in 2004.

Quimbo said the continuing uptrend in the Fund's performance was a result of "synchronized institution-wide efforts".

He said Pag-IBIG carried out measures, such as an improved information technology system, which enhanced its collection program.

Collections for 2005 stood at P37.27 billion, 14 percent higher than the P32.57 billion in 2004.

Contributions from Pag-IBIG's 6.04 million members amounted to P13.04 billion.

Quimbo said he expected to generate more revenues in 2006 with the Fund's tie-up with private and public banks for the use of their electronic payment facilities.

Cynthia D. Balana

Who's afraid of Media Freedom?

THE FORUM "WHO'S Afraid of Media Freedom?" will discuss serious challenges that media face today and their impact on the public. The media and the public will meet to clarify rights and responsibilities.

It will be held at the Veritas, 4th floor, Ateneo Rockwell, on March 13, 5:30 p.m.

The speakers will be Vergel Santos, president, Center for Media Freedom and Responsibility; Luchie Cruz Valdez, ABS-CBN Current Affairs head; Isagani Yambot, Philippine Daily Inquirer publisher; Carlos Conde, secretary general, National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP); and lawyer Marion Manuel, spokesman, Alternative Law Group (ALG).

A cocktail party for media will follow after the forum.

The forum is sponsored by the La Salle-Ateneo At Lahat Na, an alliance of alumni and alumnae from the Ateneo, La Salle, Assumption, St. Scholastica's, St. Theresa's College and other major educational institutions.

This was the warning issued by the Department of Labor and Employment yesterday after it raided several business establishments which were found to be employing minors.

The DOLE said a total of 32 minors in Metro Manila, including young girls working as guest relations officers, were rescued by the DOLE-led Sagip Batang Manggagawa (SBM) quick action team, a government inter-agency body that monitors child labor.

The child workers, aged 16 to 17, were rescued from the RJS Marketing in San Miguel, Manila, Bumble Garments in Quezon City and from KTV bars in Makati City.

The rescued minors were brought to the Department of Social Welfare Department's Nasyon ng Kabataan where they are now attending skills

training classes, DOLE-NGR director Ricardo Martinez said.

Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that since the start of the year, the Sagip Batang Manggagawa team had conducted surveillance and three rescue operations in Metro Manila.

The SBM composite team is tasked to detect, monitor, and rescue child laborers in hazardous and exploitative working conditions particularly those engaged in bonded labor, commercial sexual exploitation and prostitution, and hazardous work activities.

SBM agents accompanied by the police conducted a rescue operation at RJS after receiving a tip that a child worker was in serious condition at the Orthopedic Hospital for fractured pelvic bone he sustained while carrying a 50-kilo sack of sugar at the RJS warehouse.

The DOLE found RJS of violating

labor standards. The firm was ordered to pay the minors a total of P405,816 for underpayment of wages and non-payment of other benefits, and failure to provide the minors SSS and Pag-IBIG coverage.

Criminal charges have also been filed with the Manila Regional Court against the firm for violating the anti-child labor law, Martinez said.

At the Bumblebee Garments, the team found that the working conditions were hazardous and poor.

The company was ordered to pay a total of P47,000 in back wages to the minors and P43,188 for their transportation to their home provinces.

The SBM team also rescued 16 minors working in eight KTV bars in Makati City. Criminal charges were filed against the KTV owners. The KTV bars will undergo closure proceedings in accordance with Republic Act No. 9231.

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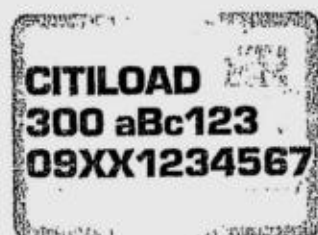
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4-5 pm
PET ONE
Resource Speaker: Mr. Ad Postino
• Nutritional Care for Dogs and Cats
6-8 pm
K & C Coffee
Resource Speaker: Mr. Michael de Kusa
• Pet Grooming

March 18, 2006
1-2 pm
Animal Care Specialist
Resource Speaker: Dr. Marga Rosa Carpio, DVM
• Developing Sustainable Health Care and Nutritional
Concern Among Dogs and Cats
4-5 pm
MASTER DOG PHILS
Resource Speaker: Ms. May Reyes
• Nutritional Care for Dogs and Cats

March 19, 2006
1-2 pm
MULTI FEEDS CORP
Resource Speaker: Mr. Walter Lee
• Nutritional Care for Dogs and Cats
3-4 pm
RD
Resource Speaker: Mr. Rudy Chua Sing
• Pet Grooming for Dogs
4-5 pm
ROYAL CANINE PHILS
Resource Speaker: Mr. Rina Aguirre
• Nutritional Care for Dogs and Cats

ADMISSION IS FREE

Now it can be told: Why 'withdrawal' plot failed

From page A1
for his role in the "Hello Garci" scandal," said the source.

Esperon was one of the military officers whose names were mentioned in the Hello Garci tapes, a compilation of wiretapped phone calls of Virgilio Garcillano, former commissioner of the Commission on Elections.

Ms Arroyo's opponents alleged that the wiretapped conversations provided proof that massive fraud was the key to her victory in the 2004 presidential elections.

Crucial meeting

The source, an AFP insider, said that the day before the plot was to be executed on Feb. 24, a secret, crucial meeting took place among three officers who were in on the plan: Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim, head of the Scout Rangers Regiment; Col. Ariel Querubin, head of a Marine brigade based in Camp Ranao, Marawi City; and Marine commandant Brig. Gen. Renato Miranda.

VIP visitor

The three officers had one very important visitor on that day—AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga.

"He said he was in," said one source privy to the meeting.

Contacted by the INQUIRER, Senga said, "I have not heard of that [military takeover]. It's the first time I've heard that. I have not even talked with them. Aren't those things planned over a period of time, planned over several years? So how can I be part when I have not even talked with them."

A few days before D-Day, Feb. 24, when the plan would be executed, junior officers who were part of the plot had been greeting each other in military camps—"Malapit na (It's getting near)." "It's not a coup," said one source. "And it's not a junta."

Power-packed meeting

Lim, the source said, had to deny that there was a coup when apparently, the plan leaked and he got a call from former

Rep. Jose "Peping" Cojuangco, who asked if something was afoot.

Respected business leaders and influential Church officials might have had an inkling of the military plan because on Feb. 22, they held what was described as a low-key meeting at the Manila Peninsula. But those present packed a lot of wallop.

Aside from members of the Hyatt 10, the meeting was also attended by businessman Jaime Augusto Zobel, El Shadai leader Mike Velarde, former President Corazon Aquino and other prominent business leaders.

Power-packed meeting

"There is a sense of urgency that the political crisis has to be resolved at the soonest time possible because the constitutional avenues for resolving this crisis are narrowing down and we don't want to be left with extra-constitutional alternatives," former education secretary and Hyatt 10 member Florencio Abad was quoted as saying in a phone interview on the day the Manila Peninsula meeting was held.

The source said the military plan was for Senga to head the caretaker government but on condition that he declare the holding of elections immediately.

The plan also was to keep the two houses of Congress intact—the House of Representatives and the Senate.

"So how can you call that a coup? Or a junta? Congress will not be shut down," said the source.

Power-packed meeting

The plan, as had been previously reported, was for members of the Scout Rangers and the Marines to walk out of their camps to join the Feb. 24 marches to celebrate the 20th Edsa I anniversary. They would be wearing their uniforms and with two distinct markings—white patches and their long firearms with their muzzles down.

It was a plan rich in theatrics, but definitely wanting in firepower, said the INQUIRER sources.

The stage that was chosen was the rally at Ayala Avenue in Makati City as it was the site selected for the protest-cum-Edsa celebra-

tion.

There, as the Rangers and Marines marched with protesters, the plan was for Brig. Gen. Danilo Lim to walk up the stage and declare his withdrawal of support for Ms Arroyo.

A video of Lim talking about the withdrawal of support and explaining the decision was allegedly taped and copies prepared for distribution and airing to key TV stations as Lim stood on the Ayala stage.

This part of the plan, however, was aborted for fear that a copy of the video would leak.

The next step after Lim declares his withdrawal of support for Ms Arroyo on the Ayala stage was for someone to call Senga next. A speech had been prepared for Senga to read. It had the same message as Lim's—withdrawal of support for Ms Arroyo.

Call for election is key

The military officers who planned the drastic move (they insist it's not a coup) were aware that a junta, or a military-run government, faces strong resistance from the people, according to the sources.

"That was why the call for immediate elections was key," said one source.

The architects of the plan knew that it would violate the rule of succession in which Vice President Noli de Castro was to take the place of Ms Arroyo, according to the source, "but the elections would be called immediately and everyone would be busy campaigning."

"Besides, the military has the barrel of the gun," said the source.

The officers also toyed with the idea of having Senate President Franklin Drilon head the caretaker government, should circumstances show that resistance to the caretaker period having a purely military face was overwhelming.

Other changes

Aside from taking over government while the elections are being held, the architects of the plan were also planning some major changes.

One was to put former Special Action Force head, Chief Supt. Marcelino Franco Jr. whose reputation was untarnished as a police officer, as chief of the Philippine National Police.

According to the sources, there were signs that Esperon was entertaining the idea of taking part in the plot, or simply allowing the plan's execution.

Before the meeting of the three officers that Senga dropped in on, Esperon had met with Ms Arroyo, and met with Lim shortly after meeting the President.

'All systems go'

No details of Esperon's meeting with Ms Arroyo could be obtained by the INQUIRER but another source said Esperon disclosed the results of the meeting in his conversation with Lim.

On the night of Feb. 23, "it was all systems go," said one source.

But as Esperon's reluctance grew and turned into resistance, the plan had to be aborted and Senga backed down and reported the plot to Ms Arroyo.

An exit plan was quickly prepared and put into action. Senga placed Lim under his custody.

Senga said that on the night of Feb. 23 he was only talking to Lim and Querubin. "They expressed a readiness, willingness to go to the rallies because they can't control their men anymore," recounted Senga.

Different version

He added that it was only Miranda who was around when Senga called the service commanders to dissuade Lim and Querubin from going ahead with their plan of withdrawal.



FRANCISCO "Kit" Tatad had the distinction of being the country's youngest press secretary, circa 1972, when President Marcos pirated him from his reporter's seat to join the Palace crew.

POI PHOTO

Been there, done that . . .

From page A1
the government's crackdown on media after issuing Presidential Proclamation No. 1017, which put the country under a state of national emergency.

Tatad, the information minister during martial law under the late President Ferdinand Marcos, said all the bad press that Ms Arroyo had been receiving was caused by her decision to run after a newspaper.

After PP 1017, police raided The Daily Tribune office while Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao warned media that they should follow government guidelines on reporting the news or face sanctions.

Tatad made the statement yesterday at a forum at the Ambassador Hotel where he was a guest together with lawyer Charlie Serapio. Forum organizer Sammy Julian said guests Pastor "Boy" Saycon and Ramon Montañio failed to show up because of the presence of police in the area.

According to Tatad, how the media was treated under martial law was a "small issue" but enough to provoke reactions from international bodies.

"That alone was sufficient to send all sorts of organizations ... all sorts of media practitioners in the free world, to come down on Marcos. So let us learn our lesson from this," he said.

After Marcos declared martial law, he ordered the closure of media offices and the arrest of journalists like Joaquin "Chino" Roces, Max Soliven, Teodoro Locsin Sr., Luis Beltran, Juan Mercado and Amando Doronila, among other people.

No press censorship?

Tatad said yesterday that although media establishments were closed as a result of martial law, no actual censorship was done to the print media.

What was left of print media, anyway, since majority of the publications were closed including the Manila Times, Philippines Herald, Philippines Free Press, the Manila Chronicle, Weekly Graphic, The Nation, The Sun, Daily Star and Asia Philippines Leader.

The Marcos government also took over television and radio stations of ABS-CBN, Kanlaon Broadcasting Corp. and the Manila Broadcasting Corp.

"In my recollection, we never actually resorted to censoring newspapers," Tatad said, adding that those who reviewed newspapers' copies back then were civil-

Michael Defensor, Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, has a different version of what happened.

In a phone interview, he said it was Lim who was trying to convince Senga to join the move to withdraw support from Ms Arroyo.

Defensor said the negotiations for Senga to join the plot to unseat Ms Arroyo went on until at one point, Senga put his foot down and told Lim that if the officers who planned to join the coup wouldn't back down, he would be forced to fight it with force.

"That's why he (Senga) arrested Danny (Lim)," said Defensor.

Defensor insisted that there was an alliance between Lim's group and the Left, as proven by the arrest of Magdalo leader Lt. Lawrence San Juan who was to meet with communist leaders in Batangas when government forces captured him.

No Red alliance

But Lim vehemently denied entering into an alliance with the Left. He said the Scout Rangers are fierce enemies of communist guerrillas and wouldn't even entertain thoughts of forming an alliance with them.

"The Rangers have suffered painful casualties in the hands of communist rebels. And the Rangers have inflicted so much harm on them. An alliance is out of the question," said one source.

"I'm surprised why Danny (Lim) keeps on denying the alliance with the Left," countered Defensor.

He said AFP officers loyal to Ms Arroyo, under Senga's instruction, have been keeping track of plots to unseat the President.

Lim's move, he said, was part of Oplan Hackle. With a report from Dona Pazzibugan

'Restiveness may erupt'

From page A1
edly detained 26 officers and men of the Scout Rangers following Lim's relief as commander on Feb. 23.

Two-bladed

But Biazon warned that the crackdown, if mishandled, could spell more trouble for a military whose members had grown more restive over allegations that key AFP officials were involved in election fraud in 2004.

"In implementing this expanded coverage, the military should be very careful. This can be two-bladed," Biazon, a Marine who once served as AFP chief of staff and who now chairs the Senate committee on national defense, said in an interview.

"It may be true that it can suppress actions by these disgruntled elements, but it can build up restiveness up to a point that it will take a small trigger to translate this restiveness into action. No one can predict what the consequences may be," he said.

Biazon said even members of the YOU were increasingly getting "dismayed" by the crackdown "because they don't think it is justified."

"But for now, they're keeping silent," he said, recalling his conversations with the group.

To avoid falling into a trap, the AFP should gather solid evidence against the officers and men now detained in connection with the supposed coup plot, Biazon said.

"There must be a strong case buildup against [those] being arrested," he said.

Separate probe

Among those detained are Scout Rangers chief of staff Lt. Col. Nestor Flordeliza, ex-operations chief Maj. Jason Aquino and personnel chief Capt. Ruben Guinolbay, the hero of the 2001 "Lamitan siege" in Basilan.

Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, the Army chief, said he would decide next week who among the officers and men would be subjected to a court-martial.

Kison told reporters that "a separate investigation" was being conducted under the deputy Marine commandant, Brig. Gen. Romeo Abayan.

"They will try to find out if there is conspiracy in what happened with the Marines and with the Army [Scout Rangers]. If there is conspiracy, the AFP will conduct a consolidated investigation," he said.

And this time, Kison said, there would be no more amnesty: "For so many years we have tried amnesty, and it did not work. So the stand of the AFP at the moment is no amnesty [for coup plotters] ... and that all [those involved] in these uprisings should be punished."

When he appeared at the National Bureau of Investigation last Wednesday, Lim denied that he was involved in a coup plot and that he urged Gen. Generoso Senga, the AFP chief of staff, to be part of one.

He also denied having forged an alliance with communist rebels.

Esperon admitted that he could not categorically say Lim had allied with the military's sworn enemies.

"I am not accusing General Lim of having talked to the Communist Party of the Philippines central committee members. But his actions would have benefited the enemies of the state," Esperon said, referring to Lim's supposed plan to join protest rallies on Feb. 24.

"I wish he was not [involved]. But the only question I would ask him is, had he marched on the streets with [protesters], could he have acted according to his oath [of loyalty to the chain of command]?" Esperon said.

Hands off

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Ms Arroyo was taking a hands-off policy vis-a-vis the crackdown and was confident that "the great majority of soldiers remain loyal to the Constitution and the rule of law."

"The President and Commander in Chief leaves the AFP command and the major services to deal with the residual issues of military adventurism and destabilization," Bunye said in a radio interview.

He said the crackdown was meant to "protect the state and maintain peace and order."

"The situation might get worse if we do not give this a thorough investigation," he said.

Bunye said that despite the decision of some members of the military to push for the ouster of the President, her faith in her troops remained strong.

"The chain of command has shown itself to be unbreakable, and the people can be assured that the great majority of our soldiers are on the side of the Constitution and the rule of law," he said.

Bunye lauded the troops, saying: "Our soldiers are among the best fighters in the war and noble partners of the people for peace and community-building. They hold the flag high and for their good deeds, we are proud of them."

'Boiling inside'

But Biazon said the expanded crackdown was a sign of the extent of military discontent.

"[It's] an indication that the ... dismay might be more extensive than what it is perceived to be," he said, adding:

"The dismay is boiling inside,

brought about by a number of issues like the corruption in and politicization of the military, and the ... four generals in the 'Hello Garci' tapes who were supposedly used to commit election fraud."

The "Hello Garci" tapes purportedly contained conversations between Ms Arroyo and then Elections Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano suggesting fraud in the May 2004 presidential election.

Biazon expressed doubt over military claims that General Lim's group was plotting a coup.

"I don't think there was an attempt to mount a coup," he said. "Even the group talking to me said they were not talking of a coup and were only planning to withdraw [support from the chain of command], which was institutionalized by [Angelo] Reyes and GMA (Ms Arroyo) in 2001."

Reyes, then AFP chief, withdrew support from then President Joseph Estrada and backed the mass of protesters on Edsa calling for his ouster amid accusations of plunder, incompetence and inefficiency.

Two days later, Estrada stepped down and Ms Arroyo, then Vice President, was sworn in as President.

Dialogue

Amid the military crackdown, Malacañang is finalizing the details of the planned dialogue between the President and soldiers "without their commanding officers."

The dialogue is set for the third week of the month.

Bunye said the dialogue would "help clear the air about certain issues that are leveled against [the President] by the opposition."

"This is the Commander in Chief going down to the level of her soldiers, to seek openly what they are feeling, which I think will be favorably looked upon by the military," Ms Arroyo's chief of staff Michael Defensor told reporters.

Defensor, whom the President had tapped to spearhead reconciliation efforts with her political enemies, said he needed more time to finalize the format and place of the dialogue.

"It depends on the President as to the kind of format she wants, but it's possible that only enlisted personnel, without their commanding officers, will attend. My inclination is for the President to go [to the military camps] for the dialogue," he said.

Malacañang is preparing to hire experts to conduct a series of dialogues with the soldiers.

"We want to set this up properly because we are dealing with a military hierarchy and I might set it up wrongly," said Defensor.

He hinted that the dialogue might be open to media coverage.

DepEd gives 68 Leyte orphans scholarships Tan, Sy, Zobel ...

From page A1

whom will graduate this month—are assured of continued schooling up to college.

The students were attending classes when tragedy struck on Feb. 17 in St. Bernard, killing 152 people, with over 900 still missing and presumed dead.

Under bishop's care

Most of the orphaned students are in the care of Maasin Bishop Precioso Cantillas. They are staying in a resort in San Juan, rented with the help of funds received by the diocese for the mudslide victims.

The orphans would also be given basic needs and education, Cantillas said.

The DepEd project would help students finish school, Escobarte said. They could either take vocational courses or go to college.

He said this was DepEd's way of making sure the students would have a bright future.

"We want to help them rebuild their [shattered] lives," Escobarte said.

Five-year project

"Project Guinsaugon: Tabang Kabataan" is envisioned to be a five-year plan or to last until the students finish college and gain employment.

Aside from granting financial scholarships to students, the project has other major components namely, student health and nutrition, student educational insurance, and student career guidance.

Components of the program will be undertaken with the support of the Departments of Health, of Labor and Employment and Social Welfare and Development and other line agencies such as the Commission on Higher Education, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Philippine Health Insurance Co.

The Commission on Audit will also make sure collected funds will be deposited in a

trust fund in the Development Bank of the Philippines-Tacloban Branch.

Donations

Escobarte said money for the scholarship was sourced from the fund-raising conducted by the DepEd-8. Since the department started its fund-raising campaign days after the Feb. 17 tragedy, they were able to collect P175,000, he said.

The amount came from the maintenance and operating expenses funds of the 10 school divisions of the DepEd-8. The regional office itself donated P50,000 as an initial fund.

"We also encouraged all students under the supervision of the DepEd to give P25 and our teaching and non-teaching personnel to give P5 to help the students," Escobarte said.

Eastern Visayas has over 28,000 elementary and high school students and 27,000 teaching and non-teaching personnel.

The launching of "Project Guinsaugon: Tabang Kabataan" was held Thursday at the St. Bernard Central School and was attended by Regional Director Sol Matugas, Violeta Alolija, schools division superintendent of Southern Leyte and Escobarte himself.

Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias, Rep. Roger Mercado and St. Bernard Mayor Maria Lim were also present.

During the launch, all 68 student-survivors were given cash of P500. "The money is for them to use for their personal needs," Escobarte said.

166 orphans

Social Welfare and Development Secretary Esperanza Cabral yesterday unveiled a comprehensive rehabilitation plan for victims and survivors of the landslide, which left some 166 children orphaned.

Of this number, 66 children lost both parents while 100 children lost a mother or a father.

Cabral said the DSWD would provide edu-

cational assistance to 110 orphans in the high school level. This would be done in close coordination with the DepEd.

Cabral said the DSWD, the lead agency of the Relief and Rehabilitation Service Committee of the National Disaster Coordinating Council, wanted to make sure that the relief and rehabilitation assistance being provided to the disaster victims were responsive to their needs.

"Given the magnitude of the effect of the landslide in St. Bernard, the NDCC has identified the tasks of different government agencies in bringing normalcy back to the affected families and communities," she said.

Livelihood programs

Among these programs and services were housing and livelihood assistance, as well as family and community disaster preparedness training to priority barangay.

Under the housing program, the victims' families would be provided with an environment-friendly and structurally strong shelter units that could withstand forces of nature such as typhoons, earthquakes and flooding.

Cabral said that the US Marines, who had been actively involved in the digging operation in Leyte, had committed to build two condominiums in a safe area by May this year to serve as temporary shelters for the victims and other survivors.

To meet the subsistence requirement of the 1,828 displaced families, Cabral said the DSWD would provide Food-for-Work program by attracting them to undertake preparedness, mitigation and rehabilitation activities in their communities or in the evacuation centers. The rate of assistance would be a minimum of P200 per person per day or its equivalent in food.

Also, the DSWD, with the help of other departments such as health, interior and local government and labor, would provide small business management and small start-up capital from P5,000 to P10,000 per family.

From page A1

global economy is growing," said Forbes editor in chief Steve Forbes.

"In the last few years the global economy has grown at rates not seen since the end of World War II. It is phenomenal and it's been fueled by a commodities boom," Forbes said.

The summit of the cash mountain had a familiar look with Gates followed by investment wizard and perennial runner-up, Warren Buffett, with a \$42-billion fortune. Buffett's pile has fallen by \$2 billion, however.

Mexican telecom magnate Carlos Slim jumped a place to third with \$30 billion, while Ikea founder Ingvar Kamprad of Sweden moved up two spots to fourth with \$28 billion.

Indian steel magnate Lakshmi Mittal dropped two places to fifth with \$23.5 billion—down \$1.5 billion.

Newcomers in the top 10 chart included the French luxury retailer Bernard Arnault who made seventh spot with \$21.5 billion, and Hong Kong tycoon Li Ka-shing in 10th place with \$18.8 billion.

Youngest, oldest

Hind Hariri, the 22-year-old daughter of slain Lebanese Prime Minister Rafiq Hariri, beat out Germany's Prince Albert von Thurn und Taxis by eight months for the title of the world's youngest billionaire.

At the other end of the age spectrum was American John Simplot, 96, who made his fortune processing potatoes.

Thirty-nine people fell off the Forbes list, victims of market forces, dubious ethics and, in 11 cases, death.

Notable disappearances included US lifestyle guru Martha

Stewart, who debuted on the list last year despite serving a five-month prison term, and then found that freedom doesn't pay as her net worth declined to \$500 million after her release.

The 2006 roster counted billionaires from 49 countries, with the Czech Republic making its first appearance, and New Zealand and Lebanon both returning after an absence of several years.

The United States boasted 371 names on the list with a collective net worth of \$1.1 trillion, while Europe's 196 billionaires enjoyed combined wealth of \$802 billion.

Rising star Russia

Europe's rising star was Russia, with 33 names including seven new faces.

"Russia continues to astound," said Kroil. "For a long time there were questions about where they got their money ... but now the story is just the enormous wealth that is being created from strong commodities markets there."

In the Asia-Pacific region—home to 115 billionaires—the standout was India which added 10 new faces to a total of 23 on the list with a combined worth of \$99 billion, 60 percent more than last year.

China saw its presence in the rankings grow from just two billionaires last year to eight.

Of the 793 who made the global list, 452 were self-made billionaires.

The number of women increased by 10 from the previous year to 78 and included US talk show queen Oprah Winfrey who pulled in an extra \$100 million over the year to rank 562nd overall with \$1.4 billion.

New York has the highest number of resident billionaires with 40. Moscow is second with 25 and London third with 23. AFP

DOJ, BIR blame each other for bungled smuggling

From page A1

Former Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo L. Parayno Jr., who was then at the forefront of the renewed drive of the Arroyo administration against smuggling, had repeatedly asked Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez in 2005 to bring Lee and his dummies to court, to no avail.

SEC revoked resignation

Documents obtained by the INQUIRER showed that the SEC registration of Nitoka Industrial Corp., Mitsuko Philippines Corp., Columbia Sports Philippines Inc. and Pine River International Corp. were all revoked on Sept. 29, 2003.

Gerardo del Rosario, assistant director for corporate filing and records, cited the failure of the four corporations to file financial statements for years 2002 and 2003 as the reason for the revocation of their registration.

All four corporations also failed to file their income tax returns for the taxable years 2002 and 2003.

The INQUIRER tried to call Del Rosario yesterday to check whether the four firms had renewed their SEC registration but he was in a meeting.

Close to Mike A

The Senate earlier tagged Lee as among the suspected smugglers along with Vicky Toh and Lucio Lao Co, who were purportedly close to First Gentleman Jose Miguel "Mike" Arroyo.

On Sunday, police arrested Lee at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport upon his arrival from Hong Kong for allegedly ordering the diversion of three container vans of plastic resin from a customs bonded warehouse to a private company in Valenzuela City.

Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales said the container vans were declared to contain items like garments accessories and packaging materials.

As a result, Lee was charged with violating the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines.

He was released Wednesday after posting a P360,000 bail set by a Quezon City Regional Trial Court.

Though he's now out on bail, Lee would not be able to leave the country after he and eight other suspected smugglers were yesterday placed on the Bureau of Immigration's hold-departure list.

Senior State Prosecutor Edwin Dayog, who had dismissed the P151-million tax evasion case against Columbia in October 2005, said that it was obvious that the changes in the set of officials running Columbia was not reflected in the SEC records on which the Bureau of Internal Revenue based its complaint.

The BIR's Run After Tax Evaders had said that officers of the three firms—Columbia, Mitsuko and Pine—were Lee's dummies. Lee was listed as one of the corporate officers of Nitoka.

Large-scale smuggling

A BIR official, who asked not to be named, told the INQUIRER yesterday that Lee's firms could be charged with "misrepresentation" and "large-scale smuggling."

The source cited as example the case of Nitoka, a duly organized industrial corporation engaged in manufacturing, assembling, reconditioning, importing, exporting, buying, selling or otherwise dealing in retail goods such as industrial machinery "of every type and nature, including accessories and spare parts."

In reality, however, the firm imported raw materials such as resin but sold them to the domestic market instead of exporting the finished products as mandated by law, said the source.

"That's misrepresentation. They availed themselves of the tax incentives for imported raw materials, only to smuggle the goods in local markets," said the source, who added that the government lost billions of pesos in

revenues over the years.

The cases of Nitoka and the other firms have yet to be resolved by the DOJ, while Columbia's was dismissed in October 2005.

In an interview the other day, Dayog claimed that the previous stockholders of Columbia signed a deed of assignment transferring stocks to another set of owners. "On that basis, I dismissed the complaint," he said.

Not proper respondents

"The respondents were initially stockholders of Columbia, but during taxable year 2002 and 2003, a new set of officers came in. So they are not the proper respondents in the case. That's the basis for my dismissal," Dayog said.

But lawyer Joan Agbepa of the BIR's RATE task force said that although there was a transfer of shares of stock, the tax liability was not extinguished by the mere assignment of shares.

The tax evasion case against Columbia was filed in April 2005 with the DOJ which took only six months to dismiss the case.

Agbepa lamented that Gonzalez's action in the case of Columbia prevented the cash-strapped Arroyo administration from collecting P151 million in taxes.

Agbepa had filed a motion for reconsideration which is still pending with the DOJ.

The case against Columbia stemmed from its nonfiling of tax returns for 2002 and 2003 although it imported P599 million worth of goods in 2002 and P2.8 billion in 2003.

P10-M payroll?

Columbia is engaged in manufacturing, importing, exporting, buying and selling gloves,

mittens, hats, garments, textiles, bags and other related goods.

According to the BIR, the tax liability of Columbia amounted to P26,503,450 in 2003, and P125,258,676 in 2003.

DOJ's hasty dismissal of the P151-million tax evasion case filed against Columbia has sparked rumors of an alleged P10-million payroll.

But Gonzalez was quick to deny the rumors, saying the allegations were "unfair" to officials of the DOJ.

"It's too big ... When we speak of amounts like that, that will surely be known," Gonzalez said in a news briefing with DOJ reporters.

At least three DOJ officials, who asked not to be named, said that of the amount, P4 million to P5 million went to the "Office of the Secretary."

Gonzalez said the case against Columbia was dismissed because of the failure of BIR lawyers to charge the right set of officials who allegedly incurred the tax liabilities in 2002-2003.

Supporting the decision of Dayog, Gonzalez said that including the names of the new officials in the complaint would be unfair to them.

But BIR officials said Dayog should not have readily dismissed the complaint.

"The new owners were deemed impleaded in the complaint because they fall under persons listed as John Does and Jane Does in our original complaint," Estrela Valdez-Sales, BIR acting assistant commissioner for inspection service, told the INQUIRER yesterday.

Having learned the names of the new officers from the original respondents, he said Dayog should have ordered them to implead the new set of officials in order to save the case. With a report from Leila B. Salaverria

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The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Dubai firm dumps US ports deal, rescues Bush from furor

WASHINGTON—A DUBAI GOVERNMENT-OWNED company said Thursday it will sell its US port operations in a move that spared President George W. Bush a showdown with Congress.

Dubai Ports World (DP World) made the announcement after leading Republicans told Bush that Congress would block the takeover.

"Because of the strong relations between the United Arab Emirates and the United States and to preserve that relationship, DP World has decided to transfer fully the US operations of P and O Ports North America to a United States entity," said a company statement read by Republican Sen. John Warner.

"This decision is based on an understanding that DP World will have time to effect the transfer in an orderly fashion and that DP World will not suffer economic loss," the statement said.

The company said it was looking forward to working with the

US Treasury "to implement that decision."

The White House signaled relief at the move.

Asked if the sale announced by DP World would end the rift with the Republican-controlled Congress, White House spokesperson Scott McClellan said: "I think so."

The divestment "provides a way forward and allows us to continue working on other important priorities," he said.

McClellan said the White House had nothing to do with the sale. "This was their decision," he said.

Details of the transfer were not immediately disclosed.

Warner read the company statement as the Senate began debating legislation on blocking

the deal, which would have given DP World operational control of ports in Baltimore, New York, Miami, New Jersey, New Orleans and Philadelphia.

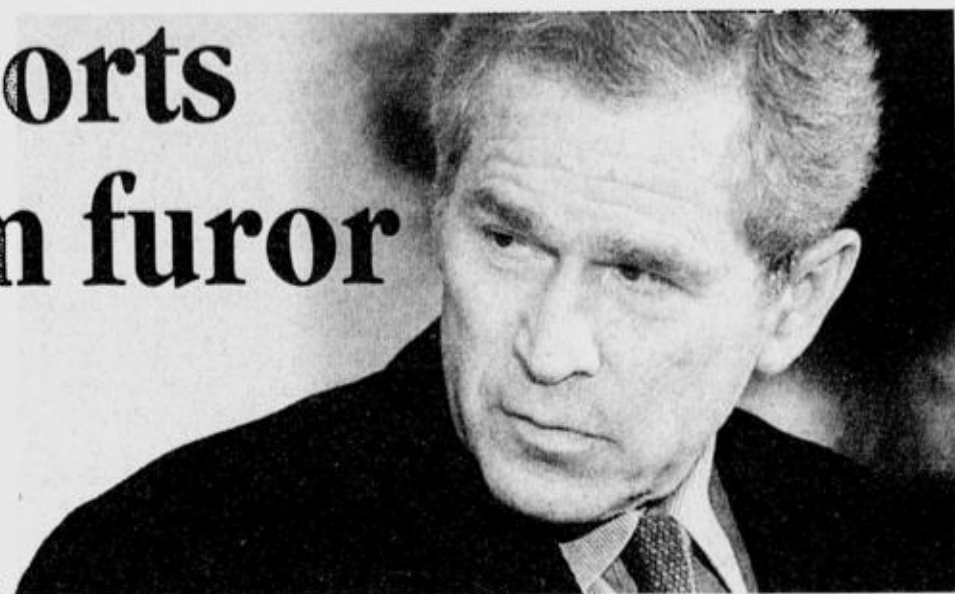
DP World said that the UAE prime minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al-Maktoum, had advised the company that the assets disposal was "the appropriate course to take" in the interest of the UAE and the United States.

The company previously had agreed to a new 45-day review of the deal by US authorities.

The announcement was made as DP World earlier said it had completed the \$6.9-billion takeover of British firm Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company (P and O).

Before the statement was issued it became clear the Senate would back fierce and widespread Republican and Democratic opposition to the deal, over security concerns. **AFP**

BUSH



Americans no longer see Bush as strong leader

WASHINGTON—A GROWING number of people, particularly Republicans, disapproves of President George W. Bush's performance, questions his character and no longer considers him a strong leader against terrorism, according to an AP-Ipsos poll documenting one of the bleakest points of his presidency.

Nearly four out of five Americans, including 70 percent of Republicans, believe civil war will break out in Iraq—the bloody hot

spot upon which Bush has staked his presidency. Nearly 70 percent of people say the US is on the wrong track, a 6-point jump since February.

"I'm not happy with how things are going," said Margaret Campanelli, a retiree in Norwich, Connecticut, who said she tends to vote Republican. "I'm particularly not happy with Iraq, not happy with how things worked with Hurricane Katrina."

Republican Party leaders said

the survey explains why their lawmakers are rushing to distance themselves from Bush on a range of issues—port security, immigration, spending, warrantless eavesdropping and trade, for example.

The poll suggests that most Americans wonder whether Bush is up to the job. The survey, conducted Monday through Wednesday of 1,000 people, found that just 37 percent approve of his overall performance. That is the lowest of his presidency. **AP**

Bomb hits Thailand, but Thaksin won't declare emergency

BANGKOK—THAILAND'S TOP security official Friday eased fears the government would declare emergency rule amid a deepening political crisis, a day after a small bomb exploded outside the home of a senior royal adviser.

"It all depends on the situation, and the current situation does not require the declaration of a state of emergency. We will have to wait and see how the situation evolves,"

Chidchai Vanasathidya, the deputy prime minister responsible for security issues, told reporters.

Chidchai spoke one day after a small bomb blast outside the official residence in Bangkok of Prem Tinsulanonda, the chief adviser to King Bhumibol Adulyadej and a respected former prime minister.

Hours after the blast, the army commander reassured the public for the second time in two weeks that the military would not stage a coup.

The tiny explosion caused little damage but shook the already jittery capital and sparked concerns in the media about a coup or emergency rule.

"The government could cite the bomb as a reason to declare emergency rule," said Suriyasai Katsasila, a spokesperson for the People's Alliance for Democracy, which has organized mass protests against the premier.

"Otherwise, the conditions would not warrant it. The protesters demonstrate peacefully. They never destroy public property or engage in violence," he said.

Thaksin denounced the bomber as he met with senior officials in Bangkok.

"I condemn the use of any kind of violence, and I do not want to see any violence. I think that the most recent two to three bomb at-

tacks were the work of the same person," Thaksin said.

A similar bomb exploded on Feb. 22 outside the offices of Santi Asoke, a banned Buddhist fringe group led by Chamlong Srimuang, Thaksin's former mentor who has become a key leader of the movement to oust him.

Thaksin, in what has become a near-daily pledge, reiterated that he would not resign under pressure from protesters. **AFP**



IRAQI girl inconsolable over father's killing in an early morning raid.

Yao Ming bests 'geisha' as China No. 1 celebrity

HONG KONG—NBA STAR YAO MING TOPPED Forbes magazine's annual mainland Chinese celebrity rankings for the second consecutive year, but "Memoirs of a Geisha" star Zhang Ziyi dropped a spot to No. 3.

She was replaced by actress Zhou Xun, the star of the musical movie "Perhaps Love."

Director Zhang Yimou and pop diva Faye Wong dropped out of the top 10 after relatively low-profile years in 2005.

Li Yuchun, winner of China's successful "Super Girls" singing contest in 2005—the Chinese equivalent of "American Idol"—cracked the top 10, landing at No. 6.

Famed art-house director Chen Kaige was a big mover, rocketing from outside the top 100 to No. 8, thanks to the buildup for his new epic mythology flick "The Promise."

The Forbes annual ranking, posted on its website Friday, is based on income and media exposure within China.

Rounding out the top 10 are singer-actress Zhao Wei, at No. 4, Olympic gold medalist hurdler Liu Xiang at No. 5 and actress Pan Bingbing at No. 7. In ninth and 10th place were singer Sun Nan and actress Li Bingbing respectively.

Actress Zhang's co-star in "Memoirs of a Geisha," Gong Li, was No. 13. English Premier League soccer player Sun Jihai was ranked No. 23.

According to Forbes, Yao raked in 170 million Chinese yuan (US\$21.1 million; euro17.7 million) in 2005. He was shown on Chinese TV 228 times, mentioned in newspapers 8,050 times and made four magazine covers. Yao was searched on the Internet nearly four million times. **AP**



"MEMOIRS OF A GEISHA" actress Ziyi Zhang, only No. 3. **AP**

Taiwan cops find \$400M in laundering crackdown

TAIPEI—Taiwanese authorities have arrested 22 men and confiscated nearly 20 billion Taiwan dollars (US\$625 million) after cracking the island's largest money laundering operation, prosecutors said Friday.

Lu Po-hsien, suspected mastermind of the money-laundering ring, was arrested Thursday at his home where police discovered 400 million dollars in cash and 17.3 billion in cashier's checks, said Hsiao Yu-cheng, head of the Chiayi prosecutor's office in southern Taiwan.

Some 1.7 billion dollars in Lu's

accounts were immediately frozen, he added.

The other 21 suspected members of the ring were nabbed in 17 raids all over the island, Hsiao said.

Lu allegedly engaged in massive money laundering in several locations including China, Hong Kong, the Philippines and Singapore through phony companies he set up in Taiwan and the Cayman Islands.

The ring is suspected of laundering more than 100 billion dollars in the last six years from lottery gambling, online sports gambling, loan sharking, kidnapping and swindling. **AFP**

9 Japanese dead in two separate suicide pacts

TOKYO—NINE PEOPLE WERE found dead by asphyxiation this week in two apparent suicide pacts, the latest victims in an alarming surge in the number of Japanese killing themselves in groups, police said Friday.

A group of six bodies—five men and one woman in their 20s—was discovered early Friday in a car in Chichibu, about 80 kilometers northwest of Tokyo, said Ichiro Fukumoto, a spokesperson with Chichibu police.

Fukumoto said three charcoal

burners were still smoking in the car when the bodies were found, and the windows had been sealed with tape. Authorities thought the six met over the Internet before dying together in a forested area on Thursday night.

A separate group of three bodies—one man and two women—was discovered on Wednesday in Aomori, 575 kilometers northeast of Tokyo, a police official said on condition of anonymity, citing department rules. **AP**

UN staff votes 'no confidence' over Annan reform plans

UNITED NATIONS—THE UN Staff Union handed Secretary General Kofi Annan an overwhelming vote of no confidence over his plans to overhaul United Nations' operations, the latest in a string of setbacks for the leader.

The union, representing more than 5,000 staff at UN headquarters, said Thursday it was dismayed at many proposals in Annan's blueprint, especially the call to consider outsourcing a variety of UN services from translations to billing.

The disappearance of permanent appointments and a new policy on job mobility without job security implied a "fundamental attack against the international civil service," it said.

The resolution said "in the fu-

ture, all staff may be at risk" and expressed "a statement of no confidence in the secretary general and his senior management team."

The staff revolt is just the latest in a series of problems the UN chief has been forced to confront in recent months, including heavy criticism of his management in the scandal surrounding the UN oil-for-food program for Iraq.

Annan has also struggled to deal with allegations of sexual abuse by UN peacekeepers as well as the fallout from corruption charges linked to how the UN awards work contracts.

In November 2004, a resolution adopted by the union's executive body, the Staff Council, strongly criticized senior UN management and expressed regret that Annan

supported the exoneration of the UN's top investigator, Dileep Nair, of allegations of favoritism and misconduct. But at the time, union president Rosemarie Waters said members still had confidence in the secretary general.

UN spokesperson Stephane Dujarric, asked to respond to the latest allegations, said: "We fully understand that these are unsettling times for the staff but we encourage all staff whether in New York or around the world to read the report fully."

"We look forward to the continuing dialogue we will have with the Staff Union and the discussion that managers will be having with their own staff in each department," he said.

Annan presented his proposal for an overhaul to the UN General

Assembly on Tuesday and urged its 191 members to invest in management reform so the UN can help millions of people around the world facing hunger, disease, violence and terrorism.

The management overhaul won initial support from the United States and the European Union. But Annan and his senior team faced strong objections from UN staff, especially about outsourcing and job security, at a raucous and contentious meeting Tuesday afternoon.

The Staff Union vote of no confidence, however, does not affect the status of the reforms. The key body for the fate of the reform effort is the 191-member General Assembly.

The resolution was adopted at an emergency meeting of the

Staff Union attended by over 500 UN employees. Union leaders said it was approved overwhelmingly, with two people voting "no" and fewer than 10 abstentions.

Over half the UN's 30,000 civilian staff are now based in the field, and one of the key proposals is to match their pay and benefits to the higher salaries and benefits of staff from other UN organizations at a cost of US\$280 million (euro235 million) annually.

Annan held a video session with civilian staff in the five largest peacekeeping missions on Thursday and received strong support for the reforms, a senior UN official said, speaking on condition of anonymity because the session was private. **AP**

US to close Iraq 'prison of shame'

BAGHDAD—The US military prison at Abu Ghraib, Saddam Hussein's torture center that became a symbol of shame for the American occupation of Iraq, is to close within months, the military said on Thursday.

Its 4,500 inmates, held on suspicion of insurgent activity, will be transferred to a new facility at the nearby Baghdad airport military base and other camps, a spokesperson said.

Purpose-built new cells at Camp Cropper, presently an exclusive compound for Saddam and 100 or so other high-security inmates, will provide better conditions, US officials said.

In all, 14,589 people are held in four US sites in Iraq, more than half of them at Camp Bucca in the southern desert.

"We will transfer operations from Abu Ghraib to the new Camp Cropper once construction is completed there," Lt. Col. Kevin Curry told Reuters.

"No precise dates have been set, but the plan is to accomplish this within the next two to three months."

The buildings at Abu Ghraib, which include the original 1960s, British-built jail and surrounding tented camp that has sprung up under US control, will, he said, go to the Iraqi government, which already operates part of the site as a prison.

By some accounts as many as 4,000 people were executed in the prison in 1984, earning the western Baghdad suburb a sinister reputation among Iraqis living under Saddam.

But it was photographs published in 2004 of US soldiers abusing prisoners, some naked, or threatened with snarling dogs, that gave it global notoriety and made it a touchstone for critics of the occupation of Iraq. **Reuters**

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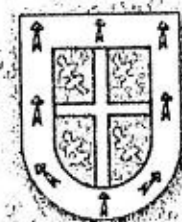
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Beyond customs

EVEN CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AND EMPLOYEES, who have somehow managed to keep their reputation clean, admit, not without some embarrassment, that their bureau is one of the most corrupt agencies of government. Thus, it is not unusual that people like Samuel Lee prosper fabulously. What is unusual is that Lee was arrested early this week.

Lee is described by a police official as **EDITORIAL** "the most notorious smuggler of plastic resin." Another police official said Lee is among the "well-entrenched" smugglers who are considered "untouchable." Officials also say Lee, who has been in the business since 2001, is widely known in the customs area to be a close associate of two siblings who are specially close to the heart of somebody with strong links to Malacañang.

But Lee was arrested last March 6 in connection with a shipment of plastic resin, valued at some P3.5 million, that was diverted from a customs bonded warehouse. He got into deeper trouble when he offered P350,000 for his freedom to arresting police officers. On March 8, he was charged with three counts of technical smuggling.

Lee is supposed to be the first big fish caught in the latest campaign against big-time smugglers launched last January upon orders of the President, following a series of reports linking Vicky Toh, a former secretary of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and her brother Tom to the illegal activity. But instead of raising hope that a crackdown has begun, his arrest has only raised questions about how far the campaign would go. The identities of other big-time smugglers are common knowledge in customs circles. In fact, the Bureau of Customs is supposed to keep an "order of battle" containing the names of at least 200 big-time smugglers. So what action, if any, has been taken against the many others whose names are on that list?

But then, this is not the first "crackdown" against smugglers announced by the Arroyo administration. In the last five years, it has trumpeted various measures that were supposed to plug a hole that drains the government of as much as P100 billion in revenues yearly by some estimates. The President has seldom missed the opportunity to announce the filing of charges against smugglers and their cohorts in customs or the creation of anti-smuggling teams. In 2002, for instance, she formed the Anti-Smuggling Intelligence and Investigation Center. In 2004, she designated Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes as head of the newly created Office of the Anti-Smuggling Presidential Adviser and created the National Task Force on Anti-Smuggling. In January 2005, Reyes announced the deployment of elite units composed of "highly trained and crack" AFP and PNP operatives to hunt down big-time smugglers.

In May 2005, charges were filed against oil company executives in what Department of Finance officials touted as the start of a crackdown against smuggling. Earlier, lifestyle checks were conducted on some customs officials and a number were found to have amassed unexplained wealth. Only last Jan. 25, Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales vowed to file 32 cases against suspected smugglers to prove the bureau's commitment to stop technical smuggling.

But after all the noise about going after smugglers and corrupt customs officials, has anybody been jailed? One customs official, who failed the lifestyle check and was reportedly charged with violation of the anti-graft law, is back as deputy commissioner. It seems all the much-publicized programs to combat smuggling and corruption in the BOC have come to naught. Smuggling remains widespread and intractable as ever.

However, to blame this problem wholly on the Arroyo administration may be unfair. Smuggling goes way, way back to as long as anyone cares to remember. It has flourished from one administration to another. But remarkably, the key players have largely remained the same. Only the conductors have changed.

A few months from now, expect another "crackdown" to be announced. But sooner than later, Sammy Lee could be back to his merry old ways. He seems to live a charmed existence. Unlike most others who languish in jail before their cases move, the wheel of justice seems to turn like a well-greased machine for him. A P150-million tax evasion case filed against him and his business partners last year was dismissed by the Department of Justice a few months later. In just a couple of days, the recent bribery case against him was downgraded to the lesser charge of corrupting a public officer, and soon thereafter he was freed after posting bail. This is one more case that suggests that we should look beyond the smugglers and the BOC to get to the root of the problem.



Memories of Mapa

(Following are excerpts from a speech I delivered before the Mapa High School Class of 1951 during their Emerald Anniversary Celebration recently. This may be of interest to all alumni of our common Alma Mater as well as high school graduates in general.)

ALTHOUGH YOU AND MY CLASS GRADUATED in different years, we are all bound by the same affection for our common alma mater. That is what really matters. We are all of us thrilled by the wistful remembrances of our years at Mapa High School—of our halcyon youth, our adolescent loves, our lasting friendships, our audacious dreams and the buoyant feeling that we were teenagers and, therefore, invincible.

Let me reminisce with you and talk of my treasured recollections of Mapa High School. They are to me like caresses from the past.

To begin with, let me recall that we in our day did not know who Mapa was, much less Arellano, Araullo and Torres, after whom the other public high schools in Manila then were named. We didn't even have a picture of Mapa in our old wooden school, and our teachers did not tell us who he was, perhaps because they did not know him either.

Victorino Mapa, born in Capiz on Feb. 25, 1852, was an associate justice and later Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines. He was one of the three Filipinos first appointed to that high tribunal during the American regime, together with Cayetano Arellano and Florentino Torres, in 1901. Transferred to the Cabinet in 1913, he succeeded Arellano in 1920 and retired in 1927.

Before the war, applicants for enrollment in the public high schools in Manila took intelligence tests not for the purpose of admission but of classification. In Mapa, the best students were assigned to the premier Section 16, where they remained as long as they main-

SEPARATE
OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz



tained their scholastic standing. To this day, I don't know why it was called Section 16 instead of Section 1.

Going to and from school, we all walked except for a few who were prosperous enough, or too pampered, to prefer private cars or public transportation. It was fun for classmates to fetch each other and stroll together rain or shine. It was also healthier and saved us theater money to see Errol Flynn and Olivia de Havilland fall in love or watch Betty Grable dance to the music of Glenn Miller.

Our school was pretty tame and formal compared to the more casual and less inhibited manner of present-day institutions of learning. Our principal was Mrs. Sarah M. England, a tall American lady who was strict but kind and motherly. The faculty came properly attired, the men in white drill suits and the ladies in decorous dresses. We boys wore khaki pants and cotton or rayon shirts and the girls came in demure blouses and modest skirts.

At that time, as far as I know, all the girls were still virgins and so too, I think, were the boys.

Our medium of instruction was English. Literature was emphasized, and we learned about Tennyson and Keats and Charles Dickens as well as "Thanatopsis" and Longfellow's "Hiawatha." How we hated Silas Marner! But we liked Portia in "The Merchant of Venice" and Mercutio in "Romeo and Juliet."

However, we did not know much about modern technology unlike my grandchildren

who must think me a complete idiot for not mastering the computer. We made do with the now obsolete typewriter that they cannot operate.

I can't resist mentioning at this point that I was the first editor of the Mapazette. We published its first issue in 1940 and I am elated that it is still going strong now, and with the same masthead that Mrs. England designed 66 years ago.

Our student body was disciplined and gave no trouble to the teachers. There were no drug problems then and even cigarettes were unpopular. Coca-Cola was generally ignored and gathered dust on the display shelves, the students preferring the local sarsaparilla and lemonada or kalamansi juice. The boys did not dye their hair and the girls did not wear miniskirts or jeans and make-up. We had only one homosexual in the whole school and he was not a student but a teacher.

We were the last class to graduate in March of 1941 before the Pacific War broke out in December. The boys were handsome in coat and tie and the girls looked radiant in their white gowns. Our guest speaker was a distinguished educator but I can't remember what he said because nobody ever listens to commencement addresses. And also, I am afraid, to speeches like this one I am about to conclude.

I have purposely avoided choosing a more serious topic for this talk because I did not want to mar the joyful spirit of this celebration. Your emerald anniversary should be enjoyed without the intrusion of the malignant problems bedeviling our country. If we have to worry about them again tomorrow, we should at least be festive together tonight, on this 55th anniversary of your graduation from our cherished Mapa High School.

Thank you very much for allowing me to enjoy it with you. This tottering old man feels he is 17 again.

What makes pilots special?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod



THE MIGRANT WORKERS AND OVERSEAS Filipinos Act (RA 8042) empowers the government to suspend or ban the deployment of migrant workers in pursuit of the national interest or when public welfare so requires it. It is this provision that is now being used to justify the imposition of a three- to five-year ban on the overseas employment of—guess who?—airline pilots.

Oh, sure, the chair of the House committee on labor and employment, Rep. Roseller Baringay, included aircraft personnel, information technology (IT) engineers and electronic technicians as part of the brain drain that he says is debilitating the country. He also mentioned in passing the shortage of doctors, teachers and health industry workers (which presumably includes nurses, whom he does not specifically mention). But the figures he cited have to do mostly with pilots.

Which immediately raises warning flags. After all, one would have thought that the exodus of doctors and nurses and teachers would have the most far-reaching and long-run negative effects on the country's human development—and yet no one is suggesting a ban on their leaving. So what makes pilots so special?

The answer can be gleaned from various news reports. Reading them, it becomes obvious that banning pilots from working for foreign airlines will benefit Lucio Tan and his two airlines—mainly Philippine Airlines, which employs more than half of all commercial pilots. His minions relate it to national interest in the following manner: Because of the pilot exodus (about 60 a year), the number of PAL flights have to be reduced, depriving the Filipino people of much needed airline service, i.e., what is bad for Tan and PAL is bad for the country. A media campaign seems to be in progress to put that message across.

The reasoning is fallacious, of course. It assumes that if PAL is crippled or dies, no one else will take its place, which is nonsense. In

the international arena, any number of airlines are ready, willing and able to fill the gap, as was shown when PAL gave up its European flights, with the international community not even noticing it. And there is no reason to think that given a domestic market of 12 million non-poor families, there will be no new airlines forthcoming, or that existing competing airlines (Cebu Pacific, for one, whose expansion PAL has repeatedly tried to block) will not be ready to take up the slack.

But isn't pilot scarcity the problem? Where will these other airlines get their pilots? Simple: they entice them back from abroad, or make it less attractive for those who are here to leave, while at the same time preparing for the long term by making sure that the pipeline of pilots-in-training is widened rather than narrowed.

On the pipeline issue, my information is that before Tan took over PAL, it ran a pilot training school which accepted students who had passed entrance examinations, proceeded to train them, and only when they joined PAL were the training costs deducted from their salaries over a period of time. Tan apparently changed that; students must now pay the entire tuition cost (around P1.9 million at present) within a year of entering the school. No wonder the pilot pipeline narrowed, but that can be reversed.

The pilot exodus can also be reversed if we understand why the pilots leave or want to leave in the first place. That is because, they claim, Tan treats them like dirt. Their story: He

used his considerable influence during the Estrada administration to have their strike declared illegal, terminated them all and then rehired them under onerous conditions—entry level salaries, loss of seniority (with retirement and pension implications), no union allowed.

To add insult to injury, those salaries reportedly were not increased from then until about one and a half years ago (probably in an attempt to stem the pilot exodus), when in the guise of making them (only senior pilots) part of management, they were given "premium" pay of 15 percent, but with a caveat: "Please note that premium pay is not included in the computation of retirement pay, 13th and 14th month pay, and leaves commutation."

Senior PAL pilots say they get between \$2,500 and \$3,500 monthly (not \$4,000 to \$6,000 as claimed by PAL). The foreign airlines offer them \$9,000 to \$12,000. But some pilots also say that had PAL offered them even just one-half the industry pay average, they would not leave, to avoid the painful separation from their families.

But instead of using carrots to keep their pilots, PAL uses sticks—arbitrarily increasing the amounts the pilots must pay to reimburse the cost of their specialized training, requiring them to give six months' notice before leaving, refusing to give them back the 25 percent of their pay that was set aside as forced savings, refusing to give references, using its muscle to harass the foreign recruiters (accusing them of illegal recruitment and sic-ing the National Bureau of Investigation on them) as well.

Failing to stem the hemorrhage despite all these measures, Lucio Tan's PAL, together with other domestic airlines (including Cebu Pacific, alas) is now campaigning to ban the foreign deployment of pilots. If they succeed, not only will the pilots be at their mercy, but the danger of having a domestic airline cartel increases exponentially. National interest? My sainted foot.

Media responsibility

POLITICAL
TIDBITSBelinda
Oliveras-Cunanan

of the 100th birth anniversary of the best-loved UP Catholic chaplain, the late Fr. John P. Delaney, S.J., who died of a heart attack in Baguio at the very young age of 49 in January 1956. Though I went to UP after he was gone, I was among the legions who felt orphaned by his death.

At the March 6 gathering, I asked some members of the academic community how things were at UP. They said the few dozen faculty members and students who held rallies in front of the Oblation to protest PP 1017 were noisy and boorish, but they were decidedly a minority on campus. Like the rest of the nation, the majority of Dillman's constituents just want to get on with their lives and get the education they seek.

Hearings on media freedom and the alleged threats to it despite the lifting of PP 1017 are being held in the Senate. The focus of attention is Section 5 of the franchise agreement signed by the TV networks, which empowers the President to take over broadcast stations in times of emergency. A review of such provisions is timely, as it coincides with the deliberations in the Supreme Court on the constitutionality of PP 1017. Guidelines are also needed in case a state of national emergency is declared again. Such a review lies within the purview of the issuing authority, which is Congress.

I followed with interest the testimony of distinguished journalists before the Senate. Maria Ressa, chief of ABS-CBN's news and current affairs division, disclosed that an administration official had asked the network to stop its broadcast at the height of the Marine standoff, which she chose to ignore. That was fol-

lowed by an appeal by Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor for more responsibility in airing the crisis. Frankly, I am not surprised by the Palace's appeal, for I was appalled by how the network devoted an inordinate amount of time to the rebellious Marine officer's protest over the removal of his commander and his appeal for people power.

Ressa told the Senate that ABS-CBN officials felt that to stop broadcast at that point "would have caused more panic among people, because they would want to see what's going on." But there were ways to cover the entire six-hour standoff fairly and responsibly, without allowing it to deteriorate into propaganda for the enemies of the state. The network's prolonged coverage doubtless encouraged Col. Ariel Querin, thereby exacerbating a tense situation which could have turned very bloody. Many viewers were appalled at the way the media and grandstanding political leaders behaved.

Because of recent events, the media have been very vigilant of their rights and freedoms, which is healthy. But sadly, there's been very little emphasis on their corresponding responsibility and the need for self-regulation. These are two sides of the same coin. I admit that our times are difficult for the media, reflecting the deep political divisions in society. It should also be pointed out that in that episode at Marine headquarters, the military leadership's reaction was too cautious at first. The opposition media were only too eager to seize on that weakness to exacerbate the powder-keg situation.

My apologies to the family of former Speaker Nicanor Yñiguez for having referred to him as "the late Speaker" in my tribute to his daughter, Southern Leyte Gov. Rosette Lerias. She wrote to say that "the good news is that my father is still very much alive, by God's grace. He watched me and continues to inspire me from his wheelchair at home." This is among the nightmares of the media: when a personality is not heard from for a long while, it's easy to lapse into embarrassing error. No excuses. Again, so sorry, Mr. Speaker.

Love in open spaces

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David



connect with "Brokeback Mountain." Ennis must be the most emotionally constipated cowboy there ever has been. Of course, his environment and upbringing may have had a lot to do with his remoteness. But he is also the quintessential cowboy, the lone figure outlined against an empty landscape. He's removed even from his wife Alma (Michelle Williams), whom he regularly abandons not just for his trysts with Jack but also for a string of dead-end jobs in a series of ranches and cattle drives. One gets the sense that Ennis is continually escaping, on the run from human connection.

My daughter and I have a running debate about "Brokeback." She believes it's Ennis who was "more in love" with Jack, because he was able to transcend the sexual relationship and "became gay" only when with Jack. Jack, on the other hand, reaches a point when his infrequent meetings with Ennis no longer suffices, and so seeks other partners. But it is also Jack who is willing to bear the consequences of their love and relationship, who presses Ennis to be more forthcoming. Does love mean holding back or giving in to your needs? Is it restraining your instincts or putting yourself out there to be judged by everyone?

PSYCHOLOGISTS say that one of the main differences between men and women is the ability to separate sex from love. Women are more apt to view sex as a consequence of love, or within the context of a loving, caring relationship; while men are better able to appreciate sex as a physical drive and as sensual pleasure, quite distinct from love, romance or commitment. Or as a saying goes:

"Women have sex with men they fall in love with; men fall in love with women they have sex with."

The ability to divorce love from sex is the reason, some say, some men are able to have sex with other men and yet remain self-identified as heterosexual. "Gayness" is an identity adopted only after they acknowledge having fallen in love with another man—it's not the sexual coupling, it's the emotional connection.

Perhaps that's Ennis' problem. He is quite able to live with his need to connect periodically with Jack, but he cannot quite accept that he has fallen in love with him, or that he should risk the safety of his anonymity and "normality" for a life in the open.

Director Ang Lee devotes copious amounts of screen time to Wyoming's scenery, placing his lovers against backdrops of towering mountains, glistening lakes, meadows that undulate toward unreachable horizons. Ennis and Jack, whose true natures must be bottled up under their cowboy hats and buried beneath their down jackets, can be true to themselves only in these wide open vistas, enjoying a freedom that is ephemeral and illusory.

DESPITE the careful manner with which the filmmakers have treated homosexuality in "Brokeback," the movie's popularity and the controversy it has generated have produced, ironically enough, a gay backlash. Suddenly, all forms of male bonding have become suspect. When a male guest and a male talk show host find themselves suddenly lost for words and staring at each other, one of them will quickly mutter: "We just had a Brokeback moment there." My husband notes laughingly that in his corporate setting, male officemates hurriedly took down pictures from an office party that had been posted on a bulletin board, "especially pictures showing them with their arms around each other's shoulders."

Decades' worth of work by the women's movement to convince men that it's all right for them to show their emotions and to share their feelings with other men has just been undone by a single movie. Look what you've done!

number of Jewish citizens decreases demographically both within Israel and in Palestine. This is obvious to most Israelis, who also view this dominant role as a distortion of their ancient moral and religious values. Over the years, opinion polls have consistently shown that about 60 percent of Israelis favor withdrawing from the West Bank in exchange for permanent peace. Similarly, an overwhelming number of both Israelis and Palestinians want a durable two-state solution.

Casualties have increased during the past few years as the occupying forces imposed tighter controls. From September 2000 until March 2006, 3,982 Palestinians and 1,084 Israelis were killed in the conflict, and this includes many children: 708 Palestinians and 123 Israelis.

There is little doubt that accommodation with Palestinians can bring full Arab recognition of Israel and its right to live in peace. Any rejectionist policies of Hamas or any terrorist group will be overcome by an overall Arab commitment to restrain further violence and to promote the well-being of the Palestinian people.

Down through the years, I have seen despair and frustration evolve into optimism and progress and, even now, we need not give up hope for permanent peace for Israelis and freedom and justice for Palestinians if three basic premises are honored:

1. Israel's right to exist—and to live in peace—must be recognized and accepted by Palestinians and all other neighbors.
2. The killing of innocent people by suicide bombs or other acts of violence cannot be condoned.
3. Palestinians must live in peace and dignity, and permanent Israeli settlements on their land are a major obstacle to this goal.

Project Syndicate and The Council on Foreign Relations

Jimmy Carter, a former president of the United States, led The Carter Center/National Democratic Institute in observing of the Palestinian elections last January.

Waiting

BOREDOM CHARACTERIZES THE WORLD OF YOUNG people today. "Bored" is used in everyday parlance to denote a feeling of lack of purpose. When a person is bored, it probably means that she is in a withdrawn and lethargic mood, trying to let the day pass by hoping the next will be different.

I am usually very bored. I work in a research and advocacy institute. And although the work is good, I often find myself wondering what I can do to make my life more exciting.

Lately I have gotten into the habit of joining some friends in a nightcap after work just to fill my days. But that tends to sap energy, not to mention funds from my already sorry excuse of a savings account.

So I dabble in all sorts of fields, trying to find something that will strike a chord in me. I like music, particularly rock music, but not enough to work at a recording studio, not enough for me to learn how to play a guitar or any musical instrument, not even enough to own an iPod or even original CDs which are very expensive especially now that pirated ones abound.

I like reading, but not enough to join book clubs, not even enough to read a book every day.

I like to write, but not enough to enroll in writing classes, not enough to closely observe real people for fear of getting too deep into their psyche and drown.

I like reading, I like writing, but not enough to even write every day.

I like to cook; in fact, I have been praised by family members for my nifty tricks with edible materials. However, I am not driven enough to want to complete a short course on cooking or to cook more frequently for my housemates, not even enough to stop buying fast food.

I like tennis, badminton, kickboxing, taekwondo and judo, but not enough to want to be really good at them.

My boredom puts me in a quandary, and it gets me thinking whether I am in the right job, with the right set of friends, in the right locale or even in the right country. I admire my boss who seems to be really into his work and who seems to enjoy life even at the very ripe age of 82. I wonder how people who have become experts in their fields come to be who they are. Were they gripped by an irresistible enchantment for their particular vocations?

Fr. Pedro Arrupe, SJ, the former superior general of the Society of Jesus, wrote, "What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, who you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in love, stay in love, and it will decide everything."

I guess this is what I am waiting for: to be smitten by something that I won't be able to say no to. Yes, I am waiting to fall in love.

But then, isn't this just a very deterministic excuse for my inaction? What happens if I never fall in love? Then my life will be like an absurdist play. I will be waiting for my Godot, for that something that will never come. Every day will only be a pointless routine with only accidents and disasters to disturb an otherwise smooth progression of time.

Maybe I only have to choose. Many people after all were thrust into jobs which were not of their choosing and yet they excelled in them because they chose to put everything they had into their jobs. Perhaps my refusal to make a choice only shows my cowardice. Maybe, like finding a lifelong partner, I only have to settle with something that is always there and always good to me but which I am not always good at. I only have to grit my teeth and try to be better.

Now that I am thinking about this, maybe falling in love with a certain vocation, or whatever, is overrated. What's more important is to love.

They are not the same thing. To fall in love involves a very heady feeling that can taper off as time flies and certain chemicals produced in the body, like phenylethylamine and endorphins, wear off. Loving, on the other hand, involves consistent actions. It is because of love—not falling in love—that people gain purpose in life. It is love—not falling on love—that makes things happen.

Some people would argue that falling in love is a requisite for loving. But this is a chicken-or-egg question. It can go the other way, too.

I am almost 23 years old. While some of my colleagues and friends are either building careers or starting their own families, I am still waiting to fall in love. Maybe it's time I moved on and became of more use to this world. Maybe I should just love.

Diana Jean V. Moraleda, 22, works as a research assistant in the Institute on Church and Social Issues.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Free to believe

"I am now held by the Arroyo regime and they can do anything they want to me. But they cannot imprison my stand and my beliefs."

—Deposed President Joseph Estrada

Going in circles

"We have been the example of a peaceful democratic revolution towards change, only to find ourselves going in circles."

—Finance Secretary during the Ramos administration, Roberto de Ocampo

Beyond his ken

"How can a policeman understand freedom of the press? He's a policeman."

—Sen. Joker Arroyo, denouncing Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao's threat to take over recalcitrant media

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THERE'S A POINT TO THE MOVIE "BROKEBACK Mountain," but it sure takes its time getting there.

"Brokeback" tells the story of two cowboys who fall in love while tending sheep one summer, but because of their fear of being discovered by a homophobic society, they keep their relationship a secret, contenting themselves with once- or twice-a-year trysts in remote mountain locales over the course of 20 years.

By the time Ennis del Mar (Heath Ledger) discovers the depth of feeling he shared with Jack Twist (Jake Gyllenhaal), it is too late. Jack is dead, and his own emotional life is as dry and barren as the dusty country roads. It's his fate to live a life of regret, mainly because of his refusal to acknowledge—to his family and friends, and even to himself—how much he loves another man.

If, as Jack had dreamed, they had braved other people's wrath and lived and worked together in a ranch, would life have been as fraught with danger and risk, as Ennis feared; or would it have given them both peace and lasting companionship? Ennis would never know, for in forsaking an "above-ground" relationship with Jack, he chose a life in the shadows, a life of pretense, a life of lies.

Much has been made of "Brokeback's" failure to clinch the "Best Picture" award in the recent Academy Awards, with some claiming the movie's loss is indicative of America's lingering resistance to confront the issue of homosexuality. But I think that the Academy's favoring another movie is not so much a rejection of the gay theme of "Brokeback" as it is a dissatisfaction with the reticence with which the movie tackles its theme.

ONE of the things I most loved about "Brokeback Mountain" was the way the script—especially the silences between the spare dialogue—perfectly reflected the writing style of E. Annie Proulx, from whose short story of the same title the film is adapted. As in her novel "The Shipping News," Proulx examines the inner lives of people who have reached an emotional dead-end, and the journeys they take out of that cul-de-sac.

But this treatment is also why it's so hard to

Colonization of Palestine precludes peace

FOR MORE THAN A QUARTER CENTURY, Israeli policy has been in conflict with that of the United States and the international community. Israel's occupation of Palestine has obstructed a comprehensive peace agreement in the Holy Land.

The unwavering US position since Dwight Eisenhower's administration has been that Israel's borders coincide with those established in 1949; and, since 1967, the universally adopted UN Resolution 242 has mandated Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories. This policy was reconfirmed even by Israel in 1978 and 1993, and emphasized by all American presidents, including George W. Bush. As part of the Quartet, including Russia, the UN and the European Union, he has endorsed a "Road Map" for peace. But Israel has officially rejected its basic premises with patently unacceptable caveats and prerequisites.

With Israel's approval, The Carter Center has monitored all three Palestinian elections. Supervised by a blue-ribbon commission of college presidents and distinguished jurists, they have all been honest, fair and peaceful, with the results accepted by winners and losers.

Hamas will control the Cabinet and prime minister's office, but Mahmoud Abbas retains all authority and power exercised by Yasser Arafat. He still heads the PLO, the only Palestinian entity which is recognized by Israel and could deal with Israeli leaders, independent of Hamas control. He has unequivocally endorsed the Quartet's Road Map. Post-election polls show that 80 percent of Palestinians still want a peace agreement with Israel and nearly 70 percent support Abbas as president.

Israel has announced a policy of isolating and destabilizing the new government. The elected officials will be denied travel permits, workers from isolated Gaza will be barred from entering Israel. Every effort is being made to block funds to Palestinians. The Quartet's special envoy, James Wolfensohn, has proposed that donors assist the Palestinian people without violating anti-terrorism laws that prohibit funds from being sent directly to Hamas.

In the short run, the best approach is to follow

WORLD VIEW

Jimmy Carter

Wolfensohn's advice, give the dust a chance to settle in Palestine, and await the outcome of Israel's election later this month. Hamas wishes now to consolidate its political gains, maintain domestic order and stability, and refrain from any contacts with Israel. It will be a tragedy—especially for the Palestinians—if they promote or condone terrorism.

The preeminent obstacle to peace is Israel's colonization of Palestine. There were just a few hundred settlers in the West Bank and Gaza when I became president, but the Likud government expanded settlement activity after I left office.

Although President Bill Clinton made strong efforts to promote peace, a massive increase of settlers occurred during his administration.

Recently, Israeli leaders decided on unilateral actions, with withdrawal from Gaza as the first step. As presently circumscribed and isolated, without access to the air, sea or the West Bank, Gaza is a nonviable economic and political entity.

The future of the West Bank is equally dismal. Especially troublesome is Israel's construction of huge concrete dividing walls in populated areas and high fences in rural areas—located entirely on Palestinian territory and often with deep intrusions to encompass more land and settlements. The wall is designed to surround a truncated Palestine completely.

This will never be acceptable either to Palestinians or to the international community, and will inevitably precipitate increased tension and violence within Palestine and stronger resentment and animosity from the Arab world against America.

Acting Prime Minister Ehud Olmert and others pointed out years ago that Israel's permanent occupation will be increasingly difficult as the relative

A 'dream call' to Malacañang

HISTORY OFFERS SOMETHING for the Magdalo soldiers, the political-opposition and the militant groups to reflect on.

In 1963, Dr. Martin Luther King delivered his immortal "I Have A Dream" speech—an inspiring call for equality, unity and sobriety that marked the turning point in the civil rights movement. What do you think would

have happened if it was, instead, a personal attack on President John F. Kennedy? If Dr. King had acted like Michael Moore, do you think the government would have been moved to initiate social reforms?

A president has the responsibility to protect the integrity of his office—the perception of a weak leadership would result in anar-

chy. The worst way to get his cooperation is to push him against the wall.

To the people who want Malacañang to listen, please bear in mind this timeless karate wisdom: "A hand that is closed is called a fist. A hand that is closed all the time is called deformed."

—JONATHAN AQUINO,
clearwater_1129@yahoo.com

GMA should admit doubtful mandate is no mandate

THE FILIPINO PEOPLE'S STRUGGLE to oust "President" Macapagal-Arroyo from power is as historic and distinct as any other revolution that happened in our country. It is a struggle against a person holding on to the presidency under a doubtful mandate.

This is not an issue of whether or not she is the best to lead the country. Neither is this an issue of

no one being good enough to take her place. This is an issue of mandate, her lack of it, to act as the President. The essence of democracy is that the people elect in an honest election who will be their leaders.

The Philippines may not have the reputation for holding honest elections but, in the case of GMA, she simply lost her credibility

when she made a call to a Comelec official during the elections. She should be wise enough to know that since Day One of the scandal, she had "lost" the right to hold office. She should be wiser to know that she will not last long even if she tries to hold on to it.

—FERMIN SALVADOR,
Fsalvador107@aol.com



Two columnists in contrast

CONRADO DE QUIROS' COLUMN "Waning, waning, waned" (PDI, 2/28/06) could have been titled "An Open Letter to FVR." How true, how very true was his insight there. In contrast, we read Belinda Olivares-Cunanan's "State defends itself" (PDI, 02/25/06) in her usual style as Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's No. 1 apologist.

If GMA's skewed governance, which is guided by her insatiable lust for political power, were presented to Cunanan in a panorama, it would not faze her one iota.

—JUAN GALLARDO, M.D.,
Barangay Pahinga,
4323 Candelaria, Quezon

Gudani, Balutan not involved in fraud

ALLOW ME TO CORRECT THE possible misimpression the news article titled "Biazon: Garci scandal behind breakaway try" (PDI, 3/1/06) might have created in the public mind. The article mentioned Marine Brig. Gen. Francisco Gudani (ret.) as among the generals "involved in fraud during the May 2004 elections."

Gudani was designated by Lt. Gen. Roy Kyamko, then AFP Southcom chief, as commander of Joint Task Force Ranao to maintain peace and order during the 2004 elections in Lanao del Norte and Lanao del Sur. On May 12, 2004, Gudani was instructed by higher-ups to proceed to the Navy Headquarters in Manila and to stay there for a week or so. There Gudani remained without a command until May 20, 2004, by which time the elections were already over.

Gudani's irregular pullout from his command and the order given

by his replacement, an army colonel, to his subordinate, Marine Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan, for the latter to "slacken security" during the canvassing of the votes, were the subject of their respective testimony before the Senate, which Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo attempted to stop by issuing separate gag orders against them.

In other words, Gudani and Balutan were never involved in any fraud during the 2004 elections. Ironically, they are now being subjected to court-martial proceedings for exposing the election irregularities mentioned in the Garcitapes.

—MANUEL JOSEPH
R. BRETANA III,
counsel for Brig. Gen.
Francisco Gudani
and Lt. Col. Alexander Balutan,
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Unfair penalty for overloading

WE WRITE IN REACTION TO A COLUMN OF Al Mendoza in the Motoring section. (PDI, 2/22/06)

First, we are not lawbreakers. We have asked, time and again, that the law on anti-overloading should be followed. The law favors us. For truckers, the preservation of the road also means preservation of our equipment. Before the weight of any cargo presses hard on the road, it lands first on our equipment. The issue is the implementation of the law.

Cargo loading can easily be regulated and controlled by the government in the piers where the whole delivery process starts. Why allow cargos to be mounted on our trucks only for us to be molested by "enterprising" enforcers and penalized for "overloading" (something that we don't have any control of)? What we carry are sealed containers and we cannot tinker with them lest we be charged with pilferage or, worse, hijacking.

And how do we bring the cargos to their destinations when we are banned from passing through the North Luzon Expressway and MacArthur Highway? Is there any other road network fit for the use of trucks?

Second, we did not block the road leading to the NLEX. We were the ones blocked by the police, MMDA and MNTC personnel on our way to the NLEX. The more than 200 trucks did not cause any traffic snarl on their way from the piers to A. Bonifacio Avenue. The intention was to simply pass through the NLEX, convey our sentiments through the sound system we brought along, then go back to the Port Area. Alas, entered the PNP, MMDA and NLEX security people, and everything stopped!

We appealed to the authorities to just let us through. It was only after four hours or so when we were finally allowed to pass through.

Third, if there was any threat of "bodily harm" made to Ping de Jesus, it did not come from us. We only had our leaflets and bull horns. And we were blocked by a phalanx of truncheon-wielding, gun-toting policemen, some in full battle gear. A major even issued confusing instructions for us to leave but at the same time directing his blocking force to stand its ground—until PNP Director Vidal Querol arrived and pacified his men. We were not able to talk to De Jesus. He was not in the stand-off.

The claim that the truckers are principally driven by greed is farthest from the truth. Our main concern for the moment is simply survival. Over-regulated, harassed and molested at every turn, victims of conflicting local laws and regulations, frontline casualties of economic slowdown, yet, apolitically, silent and patient servants of our economy—the truckers are now again at the receiving end of a half-baked, capriciously implemented law. We demonstrated precisely to tell everyone that it is only a matter of time before we stop delivering cargos. Not because it is what we want but because we do not have any choice. Mendoza will be sad to realize that in this issue, if nobody blinks, the economy will.

—RICKY PAPA,
Alliance of Concerned Truck Owners
and Organizations,
actoo94@gmail.com

No time to criticize

I GENERALLY AGREE WITH SOLITA MORALES' views on Edsa. (PDI, 2/25/06) I was also very active in Edsa I and II. I was frustrated, angry at the corruption of Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada.

What I cannot understand with me now is why I don't feel the same outrage with Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo after all those cheating allegations, etc. I don't think I have become apathetic. Neither am I a GMA apologist. It just seems to me a case of pots and kettles calling each other black, with some of the critics even covered with more soot.

I think our country's problems have multiplied over the last decades, and this is the fault of our leaders and citizens alike. Any president will need all the help he or she can get.

Right now I see a President working hard with very limited resources. It is probably that her efforts are not enough, but unless we work as hard too, we probably don't have a right to criticize. But then, people who work hard have no time to criticize others.

—ALINE PARRONE,
alinelaparr@gmail.com

DAAN-DAANG LIBO LINGGU-LINGGU!
P1 MILLION SA GRAND DRAW!



SARAP MANALO
SARAP MINOLA

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MECHANICS:

1. To join, buy any pack/size of Minola Cooking Oil or Margarine. All Minola products have unique alphanumeric promo codes printed on the labels or stickers, which the consumer has to text to earn entries.

2. Register via text using this format: MIN REG name/age/gender/address. A reply will then be sent to inform the texter of successful registration. The registration info of a participant will be locked to the cellphone number he/she used.

SAMPLE REGISTRATION: MIN REG Sheila Reyes/35/F/55 Dumaguete St., Sta Ana, Manila

3. Text in the unique promo code, plus a 2-number combination from numbers 1 to 99.

FORMAT:
MIN <promo code> <1st number>/<2nd number>
(The 1st number and 2nd number can be of any 1 or 2 digit number combination)

SAMPLE ENTRY/TEXT:
MIN MNLA12345678 4/98

4. A participant can only send one promo code once.

5. By adding the 2-number combination to every promo code, a participant can double his prize money for the weekly draws.

6. There will be 16 weekly draws. Every week, one (1) winner of P100,000.00 will be drawn.

7. There is one pre-selected number combination for each of the 16 weekly draws.

8. In the event that the drawn winner for each of the weekly draw has texted the pre-selected winning 2-number combination for that draw, participant will not only get the weekly prize of P100,000.00 but also gets a bonus of P100,000 for a total prize money of P200,000.

9. All messages must be sent to 2966. Each text message costs P2.50 for Smart and Globe and P2.00 for Sun.

10. One can send in as many entries as he/she wants, using the same number combination BUT with different Minola promo codes.

11. New entries must be sent every week to qualify for each weekly draw. All entries for each completed weekly draw will no longer be valid for the next weekly draw, or for any of the coming weekly draws.

12. All non-winning entries for the weekly draws are automatically qualified for the Grand Draw.

13. There are sixteen (16) weekly draws and one (1) Grand Draw.

14. All winners for the weekly draws and Grand Draw will be notified via registered mail and phone call. Verified winners will be published.

15. Winners should present the following to be able to get their prizes: Valid ID, SIM card used, proof of purchase and Letter of Notification.

16. Prizes shall be forfeited in favor of CIIF Oil Milling Corporation, if potential winners fail to present the Minola proof of purchase with the winning code and proper identification within 15 days.

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(12:01am - 12:00 mn)	(12:00mn) every SUNDAY	with BFAD every TUESDAY	every SATURDAY
Mar 06 - Mar 12	March 12	March 14 (1st Weekly Draw)	March 25, 2006
Mar 13 - 19	March 19	March 21 (2nd Weekly Draw)	April 01, 2006
Mar 20 - 26	March 26	March 28 (3rd Weekly Draw)	April 08, 2006
Mar 27 - Apr 02	April 02	April 04 (4th Weekly Draw)	April 15, 2006
Apr 03 - 09	April 09	April 11 (5th Weekly Draw)	April 22, 2006
Apr 10 - 16	April 16	April 18 (6th Weekly Draw)	April 29, 2006
Apr 17 - 23	April 23	April 25 (7th Weekly Draw)	May 06, 2006
Apr 24 - 30	April 30	May 02 (8th Weekly Draw)	May 13, 2006
May 01 - 07	May 07	May 09 (9th Weekly Draw)	May 20, 2006
May 08 - 14	May 14	May 16 (10th Weekly Draw)	May 27, 2006
May 15 - 21	May 21	May 23 (11th Weekly Draw)	June 03, 2006
May 22 - 28	May 28	May 30 (12th Weekly Draw)	June 10, 2006
May 29 - Jun 04	June 04	June 06 (13th Weekly Draw)	June 17, 2006
Jun 05 - 11	June 11	June 13 (14th Weekly Draw)	June 24, 2006
Jun 12 - 18	June 18	June 20 (15th Weekly Draw)	July 01, 2006
Jun 19 - 25	June 25	June 27 (16th Weekly Draw)	July 08, 2006
Jun 26 - Aug 08	August 08	August 11, 2006 (GRAND DRAW - FRIDAY)	August 19, 2006

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47 firms get mine permits

By Franklin A. Caliguid
PDI Mindanao Bureau

BUTUAN CITY—THE MINES AND GEOSCIENCES BUREAU (MGB) in Caraga has granted permits to at least 47 firms for mineral exploration in the region, an agency official said.

As this developed, local government officials and various organizations in Davao Oriental asked the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to cancel seven Mineral Production Sharing Agreements (MPSAs) in the towns of Mati, Governor Generoso and San Isidro.

Alilo Ensomo Jr., MGB-Caraga chief, said there were originally 149 companies wanting to extract gold, nickel and other minerals in Caraga

but only 47 had been granted permits so far.

Ensomo said the mining firms, mostly Filipino-owned, went through strict evaluation and review before they were granted permits.

"It was an informed decision. The communities where the companies would operate have been consulted," he said.

The permits, approved in January, cover a total of 111,720 hectares of

land in Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.

But Bishop Nerio Odchimar, of the Archdiocese of Tandag, said they would resist the entry and actual operation of the companies.

"The people of Surigao del Sur are not happy. We oppose mining, because generally, miners are irresponsible," Odchimar said.

In Davao Oriental, Mayor Jerry de la Cerna and leaders of various groups sent letters to Environment Secretary Angelo Reyes to appeal for the cancellation of at least seven MPSAs in the province.

The demand was based on the alleged unconstitutionality of the agreements, and several flaws like overlap-

ping of contract areas.

They also said local government units have not given the consent for the mining operations and the companies failed to comply with technical requirements.

"Laws are made for the interest of the public, especially of the poor majority. And this should be construed strictly as such and not in favor of the allegedly foreign-sponsored corporations whose concern is nothing but profit, ..." said lawyer Ana Rhia Muhi, of the Legal Research Center.

The demand was also anchored on the argument that the MPSAs cover the Pujada Bay, a protected seascape, and the Mt. Hamiguitan Range Wildlife Sanctuary, which is a natural habitat of the Philippine Eagle.

MINING EXPANSION

The permits were approved in January, for a total of 111,720 hectares of land in Agusan del Norte, Agusan del Sur, Surigao del Norte and Surigao del Sur.



BUSY PORT

Foreign registered ships are anchored off a newly built port in Sariaya, Quezon owned by the Nations Granary Inc. (NGI). The docking of the foreign ships with imported goods raised eyebrows around the port as it was supposed to take in ship for post harvest facilities for local grains.

DELFIN MALLARI/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Pangasinan execs seek payments for coal spill

LINGAYEN, PANGASINAN—THE provincial government on Friday gave a shipping company 10 days to remove the barge that ran aground off Agno town last year or it would sue for damages.

During a meeting on Friday with officials of agencies and representatives of Asian Shipping Corp., Provincial Administrator Virgilio Solis also asked the company to clean up the mess it caused to the town shore in 10 days, and to immediately put a protective netting on top of the barge to prevent coal from spilling.

LCT Eisner, a barge carrying 4.6 metric tons of coal on its way to the PNO Exploration Co. plant in San Fernando, La Union, ran aground in Sitio Talisay in Macaboboni Village on Dec. 18, 2005 because of strong winds.

The barge is sitting on a flat coral which makes it difficult to float.

Because the barge was not covered, at least 300 cubic meters of coal fell into the beach, contaminating corals and the seawater in the area. The coal contamination has spread to about 500 meters along the coastline.

"It is agreed that we will send a demand letter to the company to remove the barge in 10 days from today, otherwise we will file a damage suit against you," Solis told Eufes Bautista, the barge patron.

"We are not open to bargaining," Solis said, adding that the Agno government would be the primary complainant in the damage suit. He said the provincial government was supporting the town in the suit.

"On aspects of (marine) damages and the effects of coal on the health and environment, we will have to get the technical assistance of concerned agencies," Solis said.

Another option that the provincial government might undertake was to remove the barge and auction it because "it is an abandoned derelict destroying the sea of Agno," he said.

He was dismayed that the shipping company made no effort to mitigate the effects of the coal spill during the three months that the barge was grounded.

Bautista said the shipping company tried to tow the barge three times but to no avail. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Marine, male passenger held for questioning on Superferry fire

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—A MARINE AND another male passenger were separately held by the Cebu Maritime police for questioning over the fire that hit the cabin section of Superferry 12 on Thursday.

The 21-year-old soldier and a 58-year-old man were questioned about the fire because they were inside the adjoining rooms

where the fire started.

The soldier, who was on his way to his new assignment in Cagayan de Oro City, was being held at room 205 by ship authorities after he was caught stealing the cellular phone of a fellow passenger of the Superferry 12.

The other passenger was isolated at the adjoining room 206 on suspicion that he could be mentally disturbed.

The vessel's cabin section at

Deck 4 caught fire shortly before noon Thursday while it was in the waters off Daanbantayan town in northern Cebu. The ship was bound for Cebu City from Manila.

Senior Insp. Bernardo Raquiza, 701st Maritime Police Station chief who was investigating the Superferry 12 fire, said the two passengers were held after the ship arrived at the Cebu City port at 8 p.m. on Thursday.

Raquiza identified the soldier as Harry Cubio and the other passenger as Meynardo Dagno, 58, of Balingasag, Cagayan de Oro City.

Raquiza said Dagno was the occupant of cabin number 206 where the fire started at 11:50 a.m. on Thursday while the vessel was already at Bulalaki point, 60 nautical miles from the Cebu City port.

Raquiza said Dagno and Cubio

were turned over to the 7th Regional Maritime Office in Pier 1, Cebu City.

He said Dagno reportedly admitted that he was smoking while inside the cabin and threw his cigarette butt in a trash can inside the room. But Dagno insisted that he put off the cigarette before he threw the butt away, Raquiza said.

Raquiza said a woman passenger, Jovelyn Pacobo, from Barangay Maslog, Danao City,

accompanied Dagno in the cabin.

Raquiza said Pacobo claimed she did not see how the fire started because she went out to eat lunch. When she returned, the fire had already eaten a portion of the cabin.

Raquiza said they held Cubio mainly for stealing a cell phone, but he said they also wanted to ensure that he had nothing to do with the fire because he was at cabin 205.

High LPG cost takes toll on forests, trees

URDANETA CITY—THE HIGH COST OF LIQUEFIED petroleum gas (LPG) is taking its toll on the forests of eastern Pangasinan as charcoal makers have intensified their activities in the past months to cope with the rising demand for their products, an environment official said.

"They (charcoal makers) have always been there. But lately, wood gatherers and charcoal makers have been cutting more trees to turn into charcoal, perhaps because of greater demand these days," said Leducina Co, chief of the community environment and natural resources office (Cenro) here.

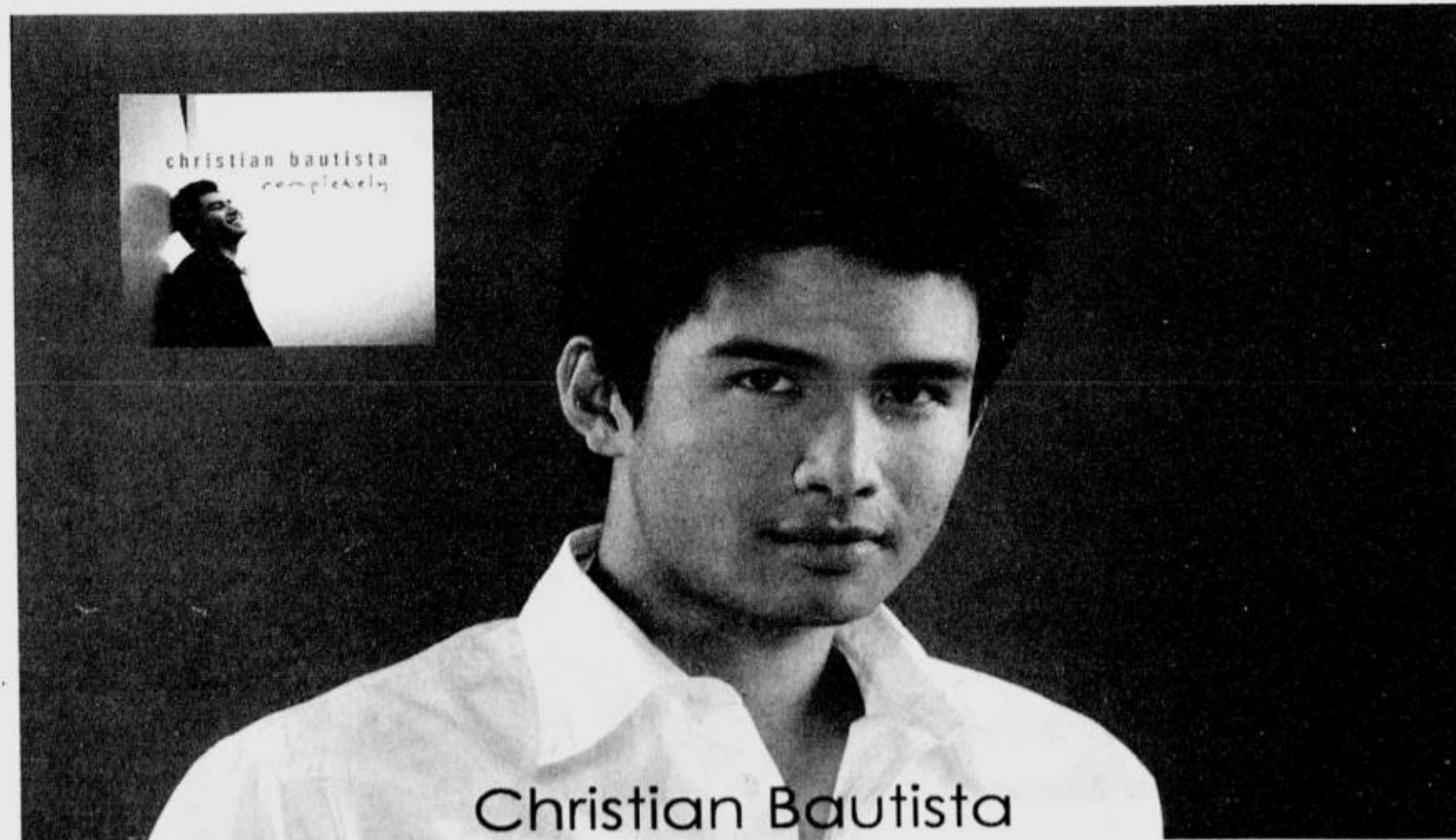
Last month, she said Cenro personnel arrested eight charcoal makers in San Nicolas town for illegally cutting trees there.

"But you see, it is maybe because of the lack of livelihood that some people are forced into charcoal-making. They have no alternative sources of income. If you talk to them, you will really commiserate with them," she said.

Co said aside from wood gatherers and charcoal makers, the Cenro also has to contend with *kainginero* (slash and burn farmers).

"The *kainginero* go to the uplands, clear an area and plant it with agricultural crops like corn. Many people from Benguet also establish vegetable gardens in the forests and eventually build houses there," she said.

These practices deplete the forest covers and expose the topsoil, making the area prone to erosion. Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau



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INQUIRER *Visayas*

Mabini moves on, but scars of mass poisoning deep

By Chito A. Fuentes
Mabini, Bohol

WHAT YOU EAT CAN KILL YOU. THIS WAS one lesson that pupils of the San Jose Elementary School in Mabini town in Bohol will never forget for the rest of their lives.

A few minutes after eating three kinds of cassava preparations on March 9 last year, more than half of the school's 276 pupils fell ill to what would later be attributed to chemical poisoning. When it was all over, 27 had died while 130 others were confined in four government hospitals in Bohol's worst food poisoning case ever.

At the time, no one at the school knew what hit them.

"It was so sudden," recalled Rheo Tuyogon, 27, a Grade 3 teacher. She said it was only minutes after the students went out of their classrooms for the 9:30 morning break when all hell broke loose.

At first, Rolita Remerata, a Grade 1 teacher, said she thought the children were "only play acting."

It seemed like strange spirits had possessed the children, recalled Sherryl Tuyogon, who handles Grade 4 classes.

Everyone panicked, however, when some of the children began vomiting.

"Some of the teachers rubbed mentholated oil on the sick children, while others tried to massage their own pupils," said Norma Ondap, 48, a Grade 6 teacher.

Rush to hospital

After it became apparent that the children were poisoned, another teacher said some of the people in nearby houses asked the children to take either sugar or grated coconut meat.

When things got out of hand, Rheo Tuyogon said he decided to take the children in his van to the "nearest" hospital in Ubay town, 18 km from San Jose.

"I pitied the children because they were packed like sardines," he narrated. The van can accommodate only 15 people but 30 children were crammed inside, he said.

Not all of the children were sick. Others who had also eaten cassava hopped in to help out during the nearly 30-minute trip.

Tuyogon said some of the chil-

dren were declared dead on arrival at the L.G. Cutamora Hospital in Ubay.

Vehicles coming from neighboring places brought more ailing children to the Don Emilio del Valle Hospital in Ubay. Later, batches were rushed to the Carlos P. Garcia Memorial Provincial Hospital in Talibon, 26 km away, because the two hospitals in Ubay were already full.

World watched

People were thrown into a state of panic when the children started dying one after the other.

In a few hours, the mass poisoning tragedy attracted international attention. Foreign wire agencies gave detailed accounts, while cable TV reports regularly flashed the death toll on their screens.

President Macapagal-Arroyo showed up in San Jose to console with families of the victims. She visited at least one house, that of Celestino and Josefina Vallente who lost their 4-year-old son Noel Isidore.

CNN carried the story in its website datelined "SAN JOSE, Philippines."

The next day, the mass burial of 12 of the victims was covered extensively by the national and international press. Images of poor folks grieving over the death of their children as the world stared, moved many individuals and groups to do something for them.

Donations, in cash and in kind, poured in for the victims' families, as well as the school.

One year later, however, only the people of San Jose and Mabini seemed to remember what had happened.

When the INQUIRER team visited the school on Tuesday, the pupils and their teachers were in the thick of preparations for the National Achievement Test (NAT). Others were simply playing.

Low-key observance

The teachers said there would be no elaborate program to mark the first anniversary of the mass poisoning.



YELLOW cosmos flowers blend with the exuberance of schoolchildren as they take time out for the morning recess at the San Jose Elementary School.

PHOTOS BY NILO P. SAPONG



THE PENSIVE look on the faces of the children including Joecel Vallente (foreground) belie the horrors of Bohol's worst food poisoning case.

Mabini Mayor Stephen Rances said the low-key observance was intentional so the trauma of the children and their families would not be revived.

Mass was scheduled to be held at the barangay cemetery on Thursday, said school principal Aprodicio Boyles, 52.

"We will all go there," Boyles said, referring to the children, teachers, families of the victims and most of the villagers.

The tragedy has left an indelible mark on the lives of many people in many ways.

One of the school buildings houses a feeding center built from funds provided by the national and provincial government.

During recess, Boyles said, children no longer bought food from vendors but ate food served at the feeding center managed by the Home Economics teacher.

While the Department of Education policy prohibiting vendors

from selling food has long been in place, it was only after the mass poisoning that it has been strictly implemented, he said.

A "reduction of achievement" among the pupils was noted, Boyles said. Last year's NAT results showed a 3.66-percent decline in ratings, compared to those in 2004.

Enrollment dropped from 276 last year to 240 this school year—a consequence of the tragedy, the principal said.

The teachers revealed that after the incident, people from San Jose were ribbed good-naturedly as "salin sa (leftover of) *maruya* (fried caramelized cassava slices)."

Victims all

When a group of 29 children who gathered inside the HE building were asked how many of them were hospitalized, they all raised their hands. They were among the

130 survivors who were hospitalized for at least three days.

When asked who among them had eaten *maruya* since then, only one girl, Floralie Galo, 8, raised her hand.

Investigators looking into the mass poisoning had zeroed in on the *maruya* cooked and sold by Ana Luyong. The 69-year-old vendor is facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in multiple homicide, serious physical injuries and slight physical injuries.

Luyong insists on her innocence and is contesting the charges filed against her with the Regional Trial Court Branch 51 in Carmen town.

A check with the court showed that the preliminary investigation of the case, docketed as Criminal Case No. 0714, had yet to be completed. Its continuation has been set for March 20.

Death up close

Undoubtedly, the tragedy has affected the lives of those who saw death up close.

Joecel Vallente, 10, said she will never forget the incident for the rest of her life. She was still fighting for her life in the hospital when her brother Noel Isidore was buried.

At first, Joecel said she thought a cruel joke was being played on her when told that her brother had died.

"It was only when I saw the candle beside the bed that I cried," she said in Cebuano.

Maricris Cual, 9, shook her head when asked if she cried upon learning about the death of her younger brother Benjamin. Like Joecel, she was still in the hospital

when her brother was buried.

Can she forget the tragedy? Maricris stared at the open space and then shook her head. She nodded when asked if she would not forget Benjamin. She misses him, she said.

Jerome Busbus, 10, lost a sister Judy Ann, 8. Asked if he cried when he first learned about her death, he bowed, then nodded. A forefinger stuck out to indicate that he cried only once.

Bitter memories

Dominga Peligrino, 9, was also in the hospital when her sister Pablita, 12, died and was buried.

Asked the same questions as the rest, she lifted both arms until the fingers were intertwined and the palms rested on top of her head. She then shook her head. Those hands would stay there for the remainder of the brief interview, betraying her restlessness before a stranger.

She is one of nine children and could not yet tell her chronological ranking.

Dominga missed her sister, blurring two words when the question was raised. "*Da'g buwak* (Brought flowers to the grave)," she uncharacteristically declared.

Like most children, they seem to have moved on, but the scars are deep. It has been a year since the tragedy but most people still seemed uncomfortable to talk about it.

San Jose, and even the 27 children who died, may be a faint memory. There is little doubt, however, that the pupils and the people of San Jose will always remember.

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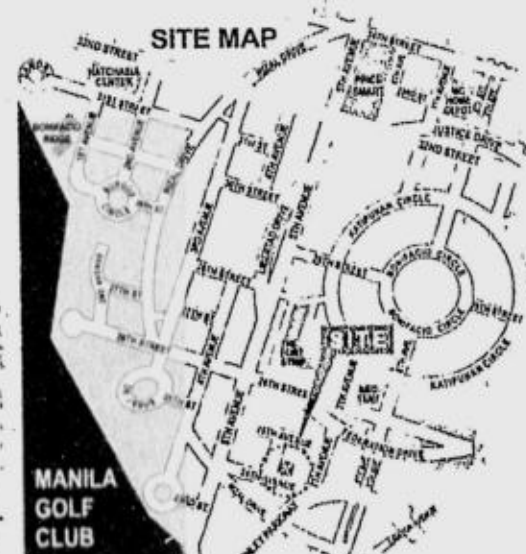
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Pasig drug lairs busted

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

THE POLICE RAIDED FOUR HOUSES BELIEVED to be stockrooms for illegal drugs in Pasig City yesterday afternoon, exactly a month after the discovery of a shabu market in another barangay.

Twelve people were arrested, including two boys, in the operation conducted by over 100 operatives from the Philippine National Police Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force (AIDSOTF) and the Eastern Police District (EPD) in Barangay Pineda.

The operatives, armed with handguns and rifles, also confiscated more than 30 sachets of shabu and three handguns in the houses, one of which was just several meters away from the barangay hall, the Pineda Police Community Precinct and the Pineda Elementary School. The houses were reportedly owned by Canon Intalan, Jojo De Leon, Ronnie Salandanan and Yoyong Pirote.

AIDSOTF chief Director Marcelo Ele Jr. told

the INQUIRER that they conducted the simultaneous raids after receiving complaints from residents in the barangay that shabu was being sold in the four houses.

Four people, some of whom were caught in the act of sniffing suspected methamphetamine hydrochloride, more popularly known as shabu, were arrested in Intalan's house on Manila Rail Road Street. Police said they confiscated at least 11 sachets of shabu from the house where Intalan, Rodel Yabut, Jose Roxas and Earl Arallar were arrested.

Brothers Jojo and Ricky de Leon were also arrested in the second house, a two-story, three-door apartment, but both denied any involvement in the illegal drugs trade.

Challenge

"I am challenging them to subject my sons to drug tests. I know they would test negative. My sons are very religious. They don't even smoke cigarettes," their mother, Elvira, 59, told reporters.

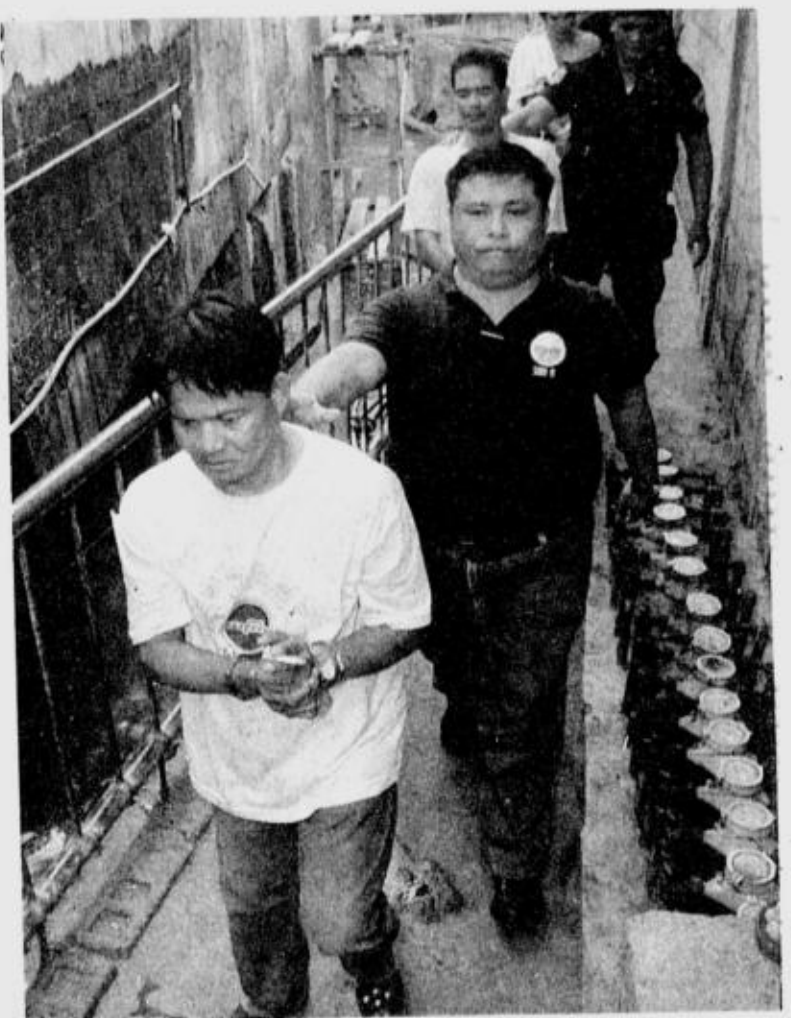
One of her sons, meanwhile, accused the police of planting evidence inside their house. The operatives found 14 sachets of suspected shabu in the apartments occupied by the De Leons, said to be relatives of Barangay Pineda chair Jaime De Leon.

Forbidden cache

Salandanan and Alvin Guloso were arrested in the third house on Banaag Street, just beside the elementary school and the police precinct, where police confiscated several sachets of shabu and aluminum foil.

Two women and two boys were also arrested in the fourth house in a crowded compound. Shabu sachets were found inside a cash vault in the fourth house, but Pirote managed to escape.

On Feb. 10, police raided more than 40 shanties in Sitio Mapayapa Compound in Barangay Sto. Tomas, which were being used as drug dens where users could order shabu by the gram. With Ruben Manahan IV, trainee



POLICE operatives conducted another raid on suspected drug dens in Pasig City yesterday, resulting in 12 arrests. RYAN LIM

There goes Jinggo again

THERE GOES SEN. JINGGOY ESTRADA again, pontificating in the Senate about smuggling activities at the piers and the customs zone.

Former President Erap's son and poor look-alike is using his position to get back at people who once sought his protection, but who have since distanced themselves from him.

Jinggoy keeps on hitting Lucio Co, a former smuggler who has gone legitimate (this, according to my sources at the Bureau of Customs).

Co was a close friend of President Erap. Jinggoy's mother, Sen. Loi Estrada, used to shop—free of charge, my sources say—at Co's Pure Gold supermarket inside the Clark Economic Zone when Erap was still vice president. When Erap became President, he gave Co his blessings to import anything he wanted, with minimum taxes and duties imposed on his goods. But when Erap fell from power, Co, without a backer, became a "legitimate importer," according to my customs sources.

Jinggoy, however, suspects that Co has become chummy with First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, and so takes potshots at the Chinoy businessman whenever he gets a chance. Now that there is a Senate investigation on smuggling, Jinggoy always mentions Co as one of the smugglers.

"Why does he keep on hitting me when I'm no longer a smuggler?" Co was quoted as having told customs officials.

THE BEST thing that happened at the piers

and the customs zone was customs officials decided to go after big-time smugglers even if they were dropping some big names.

Sammy Lee was one such alleged smuggler. A broker, he allegedly fronted for Vicky and Tomas Toh. I learned Lee had complained to a politician that he was left to fend for himself when he was paying protection money every month to somebody big. Who could that be?



ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF the government wants to stop the manufacture of pirated discs, it should go after another name dropper, Lao Kok Yeng, a.k.a. Forward Co. According to my sources, Lao has been dropping the name of a Malacañang official related to the President. He has three factories of pirated discs in Cavite. One of his factories was raided by National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) agents. But the NBI did not file criminal charges against him after he dropped the name of the Malacañang official.

THE DIVINE Word University in Tacloban City, closed since 1994 because of labor problems, will reopen in June with another name, Liceo del Verbo Divino. The city is abuzz with excitement over the reopening of the school run by the Catholic SVD order. Enrollment will be limited to elementary and high school students. When it closed down, DWU had 12,500 students from Leyte and Samar.

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAN WAS KILLED WHILE THREE others were injured in a five-vehicle collision that occurred a few minutes after 1 a.m. yesterday at the corner of President Sergio Osmeña Highway (South Superhighway) and Antonio Arnaiz Avenue (formerly Pasay Road) in Makati City.

Wilfredo Bernardo, 38, a fireman stationed in the Bureau of Fire Protection detachment in Canlubang, Laguna, died instantly of the injuries he sustained during the incident.

Injured on the other hand were Enrico James Nicolas, Teoderico Depeso and Eugene Casela. As of press time, Nicolas was in serious condition at the Acute Care Center of the Ospital ng Makati.

The vehicles involved in the accident were an Isuzu D-Max pick-up (plate no. VCJ 892), a Mitsubishi Lancer, a Nissan Altima (TTL 873), a taxi (PXJ 876) and a passenger jeep (NXT 300).

"It all happened too fast. We were surprised that the pick-up suddenly hit us. Everything was a blur after that," jeepney driver Alex Arellano related in Filipino.

In its initial investigation, the Southern District Traffic Enforcement Office (SDTEO) reported that Bernardo was on board the pick-up while Nicolas was driving the Lancer. Both vehicles were cruising southbound on the Osmeña Highway and were about to approach the Arnaiz Avenue intersection when for reasons still unknown to investigators, both vehicle swerved. The Lancer swerved to the left, hit the center island and stopped several meters past the intersection.

Bernardo's pick-up meanwhile, swerved to the right, hitting Arellano's jeepney which had stopped at the intersection while waiting for the light to turn green. It hit the side of the jeepney, pushing it backward until it hit a taxi being driven by Ruben Catarangan.

The pick-up, however, continued to

run, hitting the Nissan Altima which had been parked at the roadside and pushing it into a wall. The pick-up then fell on its right side and spun counter-clockwise before it finally stopped.

Fireman killed, 3 hurt in Makati car mishap

By Tarra V. Quismundo

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MEGALOTTO 6/45

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(Results below in exact order)

FOUR DIGIT

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SUERTRES EZ2

6 2 6 11 20

Bomb threat sends SWAT team running

By Tarra V. Quismundo

A MAN CLAIMING TO BE A MEMBER of the New People's Army yesterday phoned in a bomb threat to the main office of the Metrobank in Makati City.

The call was received by Norberto Bustamante, bank security officer, at about 2:50 a.m. on his cellular phone.

According to Bustamante, the man

told him that a bomb had been planted inside the Metrobank Plaza, located along Gil Puyat Avenue, and was set to go off.

Prankster

Bustamante immediately called the Makati Police District which sent a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team to check the building.

Nearly an hour later, the team pulled out after failing to find any bomb inside the building, SWAT officer-in-charge SPO3 Edwin Quilala in his report.

The bomb threat followed the discovery of a grenade shell at the corner of Gil Puyat Avenue and F.B. Harrison Street in Pasay City the other day.

Fire at dawn

FIRE gutted a house and two vehicles at an exclusive village in Parañaque City before dawn yesterday. Norman Maglasang told fire investigators that he was awakened at 3:25 a.m. by the smell of smoke coming from the living room of his house at 19 Azucena St. in Tahanan Village. SF02 Felipe Gaguiling said a short circuit might have triggered the fire that reached the second alarm. Maglasang's children and house help, who were fast asleep when the fire broke out, were saved. But the blaze destroyed the family's cars—a Honda Civic and a Toyota. When the

ILLUSTRATION:
ALBERT G. RODRIGUEZ

fire was put out shortly before 5 a.m., investigators pegged the damage to property at roughly P2 million. Jocelyn R. Uy

Made in Recto

A MAN allegedly selling fake community tax certificates beside the judicial complex in Caloocan City was arrested last Thursday. Chief Insp. Crisencio Galvez, head of the city's intelligence unit, identified the suspect as Eduardo Tagle 39, a resident of 1669 San Lazaro St. in Oroquieta, Manila. Seized from his possession were 22 fake certificates which the suspect said he got from his contact in Recto, a street known for forgers of

fake documents. City Mayor Enrico Echiverri had earlier ordered the police to arrest persons selling fake certificates. Nancy C. Carvajal

No longer his choice

STRIPPED of his police powers, Pasig Mayor Vicente Eusebio can no longer choose the city's next police chief. "That is one of the powers he lost after the National Police Commission withdrew his supervisory powers," said Eastern Police District director Chief Supt. Charlemagne Alejandrino. The Napolcom withdrew Eusebio's control over the Pasig City Police in connection with his decision to demolish a compound of shabu mini marts in Barangay Sto. Tomas, just five days after the national police raided the area on Feb. 10. Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

METROBRIEFS



In the Name of God, Most Beneficent, Most Merciful
Republic of the Philippines
TAWI-TAWI REGIONAL AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE
Nali, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi

Please be informed that the Board of Trustees of the Tawi-Tawi Regional Agricultural College, Nali, Bongao, Tawi-Tawi formally and publicly announces that the Search for College President is NOW OPEN.

Minimum Qualifications for the SUC Presidency (Per BOT Res. No. 05-2006):

1. Preferably forty (40) years old but not more than 61 years old on the date of application for the position.
2. Must be a natural born citizen of the Philippines.
3. Must be a holder of a Doctoral Degree.
4. With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience.
5. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the college.
6. Must be of good moral character. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification.

Applicants are requested to submit the following requirements:

1. Detailed curriculum vitae
2. Photo copy of transcript of records or diploma
3. Neuro-psychiatric evaluation result
4. Medical certificate of physical fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
5. Clearance certificates from:
• Ombudsman
• Sandiganbayan
• Civil Service Commission
• National Bureau of Investigation
6. Applicant's proposed vision, mission and development plan for the college within a four-year period.

In addition, applicants are requested to submit five (5) sets of formal applications and certified support documents not later than 5:00 p.m. on March 31, 2006 to:

Dr. Enrie A. Caracale
President, Zamboanga State College of Marine Sciences and Technology
PASUC-IX Regional Chair
Fort Pilar, Zamboanga City
Tel. No. (082) 991-0843 Telefax No. (082) 991-0777

Republic of the Philippines
BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Rizal St., Batangas City

NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Batangas State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen;
- Preferably a holder of a doctoral degree;
- Preferably 35 to 60 years old;
- Must be morally upright;
- With Recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry;
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines against him/her and are requested to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
 - Sandiganbayan
 - Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer
 - Previous Employer
 - Not convicted in any administrative or criminal cases
- Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:
- Detailed CV and certified supporting documents
 - Proposed vision, Mission and Thrusts of the University
 - Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution
 - Medical Certificate from a government physician

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit six (6) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before March 28, 2006 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/F, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY
c/o MS. ROSE MAGSINO
Batangas State University
Rizal St., Batangas City
Tel. No. (043) 723-0339



FREEPORT SERVICE CORPORATION
of the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority
BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

All parties interested to bid for the project described below are invited to submit Application for Eligibility and to Bid with Freeport Service Corporation, Subic Bay Freeport Zone. Only eligible contractors are invited to participate in the forthcoming bidding.

A. Name of Project

CONSTRUCTION OF FREEPORT OIL-CBD

Rizal Hi-way Corner Sta. Rita Road,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone

B. Project Description/Scope of Works:

This project is a design and build scheme wherein qualified bidders shall submit their detailed engineering designs. Scope of work includes construction of pedestal independent canopy, independent canopy with cashier's booth, gas station office, locker and storage room / generator set area, e-cycle office/show room, excavation for two (2) underground tanks, concrete driveway with air/water station area and foundation for monolith. Other related items include plumbing, painting, mechanical and electrical works

C. Approved Budget Cost P5M

D. Requirement:

- a. PCAB Registration and Classification License
 - b. SBMA Accreditation Certificate
- E. Cost of Documents/Forms for Pre-qualification/Eligibility and to Bid
Php 2,000.00
Issuance Date : 20 March 2006

Application for eligibility and to Bid is open to all contractors with valid PCAB (Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board) Contractors License and Registration. Prospective bidders are required to submit a letter of intent and certified true copy of the Contractors License upon purchase of the forms for Application for Eligibility and to Bid and shall bring the original copy of the Contractors PCAB License Classification Registration for verification and authentication purposes.

F. Deadline for submission of accomplished Pre-qualification/Eligibility Requirements: 22 March 2006, 5:00 P.M.

Addressed to : RODOLFO C. DE VERA

BAC Chairman, MCSD Manager

Freeport Service Corporation

Bldg. H8211, Subic Bay Freeport Zone

Project : Construction of Freeport Oil-CBD

G. Time and date of Pre-Bid Conference, Site Inspection and Submission/Opening of Bids will be confirmed by the Issuance of Notice to Eligible prospective bidders.

All particulars relative to the eligibility process, bidding, evaluation of bids and awards of contract shall be governed by the provision of Republic Act 9184 Implementing Rules and Regulation known as the Government Procurement Act.

H. The FSC reserves the right to reject any and all offers, to waive any informality, and to annul this procurement process and reject all offers anytime prior to the award of the contract, without thereby, incurring any liability to the affected offer(s) or any obligation to inform the affected offer(s) of the ground for FSC's action and to accept such offers as may be considered advantageous to the Freeport Services Corporation.

(Sgd.) RODOLFO C. DE VERA
Chairperson

For inquiries please call:
GLENDA E. CAJULIS
BAC Secretariat
Tel. No. (047) 252-2313
Telefax No. (047) 252-2317
(PDI - March 11 & 17 2006)

A rare find

Amenities.

That is the new buzzword for measuring lifestyle in the bustling city of Manila. After all, what good is it to be successful if you can't live a little when you get home?

This is why Community Innovations (an Ayala Land company) has created a short checklist of important lifestyle features for your reference:

- Can you swim laps after work?
- Where do your kids play after school?
- How long does it take them to get to school?
- Do you feel safe walking outside with your family?
- Do you know your neighbors?
- Do you see trees surrounding your immediate residence?
- Can you indulge in the soothing environs of a private garden?



If you find the answers to these questions unsatisfying, may we invite you to visit Community Innovations' brand new residential project: the Celadon Residences San Lazaro.

Conveniently located at the former site of the San Lazaro Hippodrome along A.H. Lacson (formerly Gov. Forbes) in Sta. Cruz, Manila, this brand new development represents both a bold step forward and away from traditional city living, replacing the typical condominium or shophouse lifestyle with a more relaxed, intimate townhouse community. Spanning a total of only 200 units, Celadon is surprisingly loaded with outdoor lifestyle features—from abundant greenery erasing the city, to a hidden security system creating peace of mind, a pool and jogging path for greater well-being, a secured kids' zone, a place for a game of basketball and even a grand pavilion for your parties.

While the residences were created to give a feeling of separation from Manila's noisy intrusions, the location gives owners an ideal proximity to best the city has to offer and even next to the region's best schools, medical facilities, not to mention the ever-flourishing district of Binondo. Best of all, the residences are managed by the most trusted name in

real estate, the Ayala Property Management Corporation—ensuring a secure, well-maintained community for years to come.

Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that builds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fun, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.

Come visit us and see why Celadon Residences San Lazaro was created for those who want to get away without getting away.

For inquiries, call us at (02) 241-4976, email at cii-sales@ayalaland.com.ph or visit our website at www.communityinnovations.com.ph. You may also visit Community Innovations' sales office along San Fernando Street, Binondo, Manila.

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Celadon One truly auspicious location

Celadon Residences San Lazaro is ideally located in a prime area, offering a secure, well-maintained community for years to come. The location gives owners an ideal proximity to best the city has to offer and even next to the region's best schools, medical facilities, not to mention the ever-flourishing district of Binondo. Best of all, the residences are managed by the most trusted name in

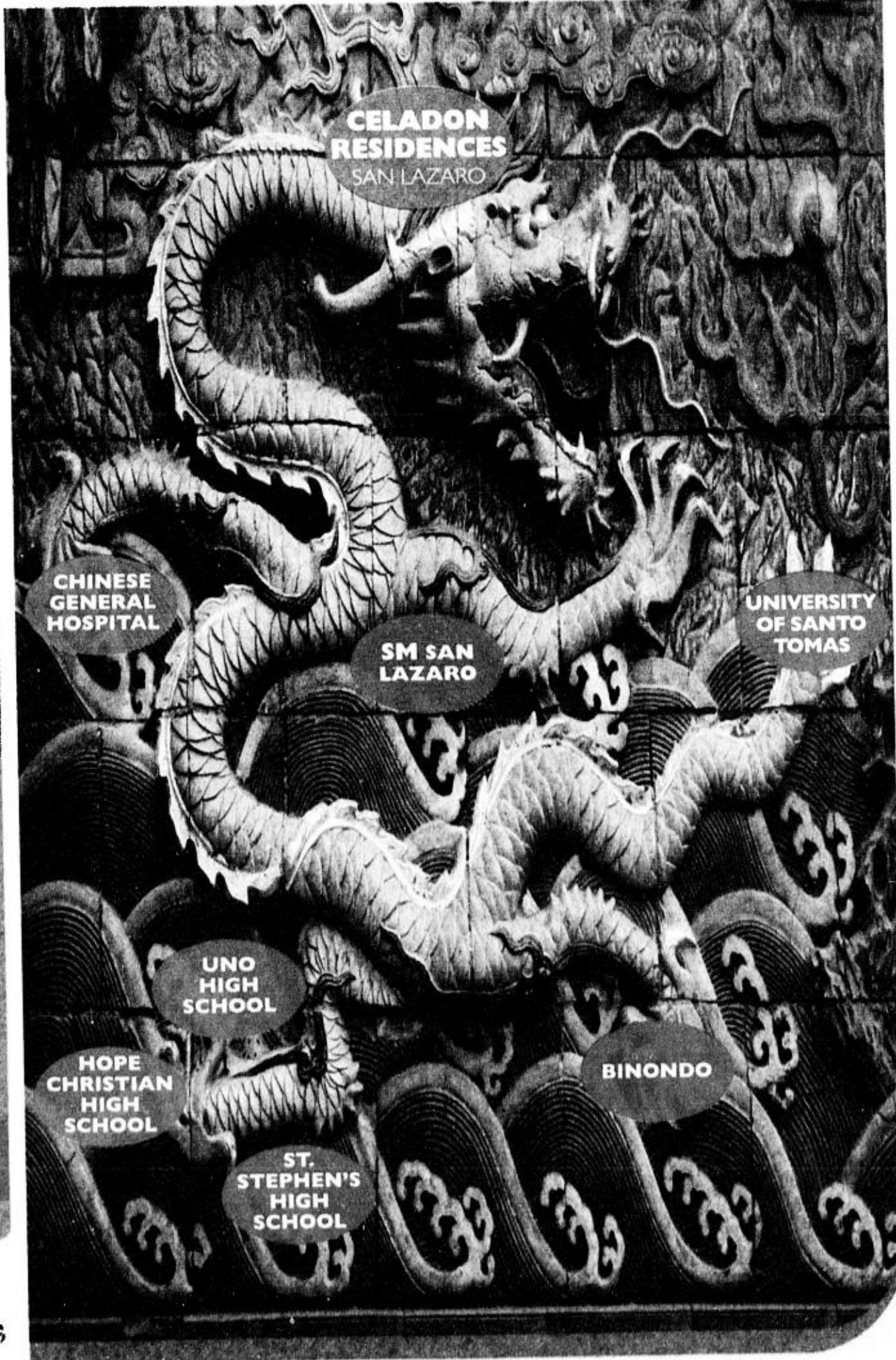


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San Lazaro



A16

SATURDAY,
MARCH 11, 2006

Cops eye love angle in QC bloodbath

By DJ Yap

A LOVE TRIANGLE INVOLVING TWO MEN and a woman ended in a bloodbath yesterday, leaving all three dead inside a beauty parlor in Quezon City.

Fernando Dizon barged into the Lady Garette Saloon in Sugartowne Filinvest Road II, Batasan Hills, where his alleged former lover and employer Olivia Acosta, 47, was having her nails done at a little past noon.

Seated nearby was Acosta's driver and reported live-in partner, Antonio Galvan. Without a word, Dizon shot Galvan at close range, said Quezon City police criminal investigation division chief Supt. Procopio Lipana.

Acosta then began crying and screaming for help, prompting Dizon to shoot her as well, said witness Richard Goboc, a hairdresser. Both Galvan and Acosta died instantly after they were hit in the head and other parts of the body, police said. Dizon then tried to leave the parlor by going out the back door but Batasan Hills police led by Supt. Julius Abanes cornered him and traded shots with him, until he also fell dead, said Lipana.

End of affair

According to Estelita Yabut, who said she was Acosta's friend, Dizon had been Acosta's driver and live-in partner, until she decided to end the relationship last year.

Distraught, Dizon allegedly abducted Acosta in September to "talk to her," Yabut said.

Dizon was later charged with kidnapping and was detained for at least one week, she said. The case was scheduled for initial trial on March 29, said Acosta's lawyer Manuel Ubaldo.

In the meantime, Acosta, who did not have a job but received a pension from the United States, reportedly started a relationship with Galvan.

"Olivia said she wanted out (of her relationship with Dizon)," Yabut told police. "I told her she did not need to anger the man by charging him with kidnapping, since he only wanted to talk to her."

Abanes, meanwhile, said another possible motive for the killing, apart from the love angle, was to prevent Acosta from testifying at the trial.

Guards saw cops miss real target

By Luige A. del Puerto

TWO SECURITY GUARDS SAW OFFICERS from the Traffic Management Office (TMG) fire at an abandoned car in Pasig City whose occupants allegedly engaged the police earlier in a shootout in neighboring Quezon City.

Another set of cops also opened fire at another car, the guards said. The driver of the second car, a Toyota Vios, turned out to be a business executive who happened to be at the wrong place and at the wrong time. The executive, Randolph Clarito, executive vice president of a pharmaceutical firm, was wounded in the shoulder and leg in the incident.

For the error, seven cops had already been relieved of their posts and placed under investigation. Three of these cops have tested positive for gunpowder residue.

The guards, whose names were withheld for security reasons for the meantime, have already given their statements to investigators, the police said.

Account

Based on the guards' account of what happened around 12 midnight on Lanuza Street near Valle Verde in Pasig City, it appeared that the TMG men missed their real targets by only about three minutes.

The guards said they saw three men alight from the Toyota Altis on Lanuza Street around 12 midnight. They then transferred to another car, which the police would later identify as a Mitsubishi Gallant.

The guards could not tell whether the three men from the Altis had flagged down the Mitsubishi Gallant which had been commandeered by armed men, according to its owner, Bryan Joel Raymundo. The guards said they saw the men take "something" out of the Altis and transferred it into the next car, which then headed south. Some three minutes later, a TMG car arrived. The guards saw about six officers, in complete uniform, get out of the police car.

They appeared to inspect the Toyota Altis to see if people were still inside, and then fanned out, according to one of the guards. But he did not say whether the police had opened the Altis' doors or not.

The police also learned yesterday that the Toyota Altis had two registration documents at the Land Transportation Office (LTO). The first set of LTO documents were registered under a Manuel Santos Jr.

Manuel Santos Jr. turned up at Camp Crame yesterday with car documents showing a different chassis number, engine number and plate number from an Altis registered in the name of Manuel Santos Jr. The Altis that figured in the shooting incident, which was of a silver color, could not have been his because his car was black, he said, adding that the vehicle was sold six years ago.

Meanwhile, PNP Chief Director General Arturo C. Lomibao "in the interest of transparency," yesterday ordered the relief of TMG Director Chief Supt. Augusto Anganan. Anganan will exchange positions with a TMG veteran, Chief Supt. Ferrol Pan, Deputy for Plans.

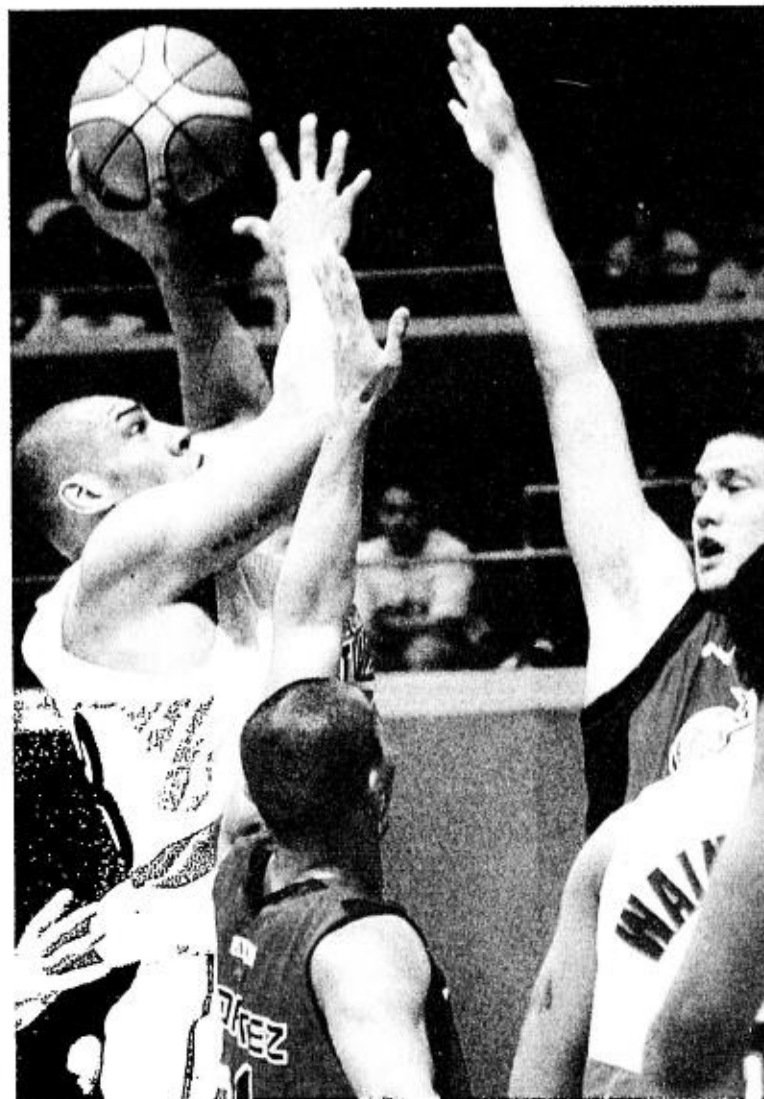
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SPORTS

Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer_sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Peek perfect as Tigers rip Aces



UNSTOPPABLE: Coca-Cola's Ali Peek unloads one of his perfect 12-of-12 field goals off Alaska's Tony dela Cruz and Mike Cortez. ERIK ARAZAS

By Musong Castillo

PERFECT.

That's how Coca-Cola played on a night when Ali Peek was the same, doing everything right in leading the Tigers to an 81-69 victory over Alaska for the early lead in the elimination round of the Gran Matador Brandy-PBA Philippine Cup at the Araneta Coliseum.

The Filipino-American banger hit all of his 12 shots from the field and finished with 27 points as the Tigers won a second straight game in lopsided fashion.

It was the best shooting night by anyone in the rich history of the league, eclipsing Peek's own 11-of-11 performance while, ironically, he was still playing for Alaska in a 79-71 loss to San Miguel in the 2001 Commissioner's Cup.

"I didn't even know it," said a surprised Peek in the press room. "I'm just glad that we won the game."

In the second game, San Miguel survived a season-high 33 turnovers by holding Red Bull scoreless in the last 3:25 for a 101-93 victory.

The Beermen climbed into a tie with the Aces at 1-1.

Alvin Patrimonio and Frankie Lim, who now hold front-office positions for Purefoods and Talk 'N Text, respectively, are the only ones who have a longer string of consecutive field goals made than Peek.

Lim, then with Alaska, and Patrimonio made 13 straight two-point

GAMES TOMORROW
(Araneta Coliseum)
4:10 p.m.—Air21
vs Talk 'N Text
6:30 p.m.—Barangay
Ginebra vs Sta. Lucia

field goals—but both their performances were spread over different nights.

Coca-Cola raced to double-digit leads early and was unforgiving on the defensive end.

William Antonio added 15 points, including a triple that gave the Tigers a 55-26 lead at the 9:31 mark in the third as Coke played in cruise control the rest of the way.

"That's just how our team is—we feed off great defense," said winning coach Binky Favis.

The Tigers ripped the Air21 Express to shreds, 104-83, in the first game of the tournament last Sunday, and the way Favis got many of his men to contribute offensively sends a strong signal to the rest of the field.

Meanwhile, a Dallas-based promoter is arranging for a seven-man team of former National Basketball Association stars, led by the eccentric Dennis Rodman, to play an exhibition game with a PBA team and conduct clinics here.

Alex English, Sidney Moncrief, PEEK/A18

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TOYOTA
moving forward ▶

Lions, Warriors collide for cage crown

GAMES TODAY

2 p.m.—3-point
shootout, slam dunk
2 p.m.—UST at FEU
(Women's
Championship)
Halftime—Awards
Ceremonies
4 p.m.—San Beda at
UE (Men's
Championship)

SAN BEDA COLLEGE AND UNIVERSITY OF the East clash today for the men's championship in the Home and Away Invitational League (Hail) at the UE gym.

The Red Lions earned a trip to the finals by pulling off a come-from-behind 78-72 win over reigning UAAP champion Far Eastern University at home while the UE Warriors gave Ateneo de Manila a rude reception at the UE gym with a lopsided 81-58 victory in the two knockout semifinal matches Thursday.

The Warriors, a perennial contender in the UAAP, will host the Red Lions of the NCAA in

the titular clash starting at 4:30 p.m. today in the only home-and-away tournament organized by Waffle Marketing Inc. and sponsored by Adidas, the official outfitter, and Sunbolt, the official sports drink.

From a 42-62 deficit in the third quarter, the Red Lions engineered a furious comeback in the final period, with Nigerian Samuel Ekwe scoring a vicious slam that finally put San Beda ahead, 72-70, with barely two minutes left. From there, it was an all-Lions show as the Tamaraws were outscored, 10-23, in the last quarter.

Today's program will start with a 3-point shootout and a slam dunk contest at 2 p.m.

Over at the FEU Gym, the Lady Tamaraws battle the University of Sto. Tomas Tigresses for the women's crown at 2 p.m.

The awarding ceremonies for the winners in the 3-point shootout, slam dunk, the women's championship and the women's MVP will be held during the halftime of the UE-San Beda game, while the awarding rites for the winners in the men's basketball and the MVP Award will be given out after the championship match.

Ignacio's 59 lifts Le Chef to victory

BAGUIO CITY—GOODY IGNACIO SCORED AN eye-popping 59 points and capped Le Chef's masterful 18-point victory in Group I at the close yesterday of the 18th Philippine Corporate Cup at the Camp John Hay Golf Club course here.

Ignacio's final-round effort, equivalent to 5-under-par 65 in medal play, powered Le Chef to a 161 total for the day and a 36-hole aggregate of 316, far ahead of Crystal Dew's 298.

Also contributing for Le Chef in the four-to-play, three-to-count scoring were Fred Puckett who had a 54 and Rommel Gomez with a 48. Ben Licican's 45 failed to count.

Jose Guico Jr. of Merit Stainless Steel also took the spotlight when he aced the 160-yard 18th hole with a driver. He won a Wilson golf set.

Naktaynay, LNP Foundation I, Leads Agri and the Indonesia Seniors were the other division winners of the tourney sponsored by the Camp John Hay Manor, Camp John Hay Golf Club, Camp John Hay Dev't Corp., Club Leisure Management Corp., Golfcorp, Information Professionals Inc., MRT, Le Chef and Wilson. Figaro, Hotshots, Strawberries and Flavors are minor sponsors.

Joining Ignacio in the individual winners' list were Alex Joseph of Nation Petroleum in Group I, Mike Robles of Crystal Dew in Group II, Tony Boy Tabora of Naktaynay in Group III, Rey Valdez in Group IV and Agoes Soelewah of Indonesia in the seniors division.

Camp John Hay board chair Robert John Sobrepina and Cecil Hechanova, founder of the Corporate Cup, handed out trophies to the winners at the 19th Tee of the John Hay Manor Suites.

The team results:

Group I: 316 Le Chef, 298 Crystal Dew, 297 Nation Petroleum, 297 Nueva Ecija, 296 CJH Devco

Group II: 281 Naktaynay, 272 Club Marinduque, 253 CJH Manor, 251 IPI, 250 Arlima

Group III: 239 LNP Foundation, 235 ERA Farm, 231 Dreamland, 231 Techsafe, 227 Breweryard

Group IV: 206 Leads Agri, 201 CJH Leisure, 195 ABGC Team, 188 Moonwalk, 143 Manila East Medical

Seniors: 272 Indonesia, 265 PASGA, 263 Infinity Cebu, 252 MRT-DOTC, 252 Texas I

TeleTech five eyes Sison as consultant

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUST LIKE THAT, FORMER MONTAÑA COACH ROBERT Sison is headed back to the PBL.

TeleTech, the newest team in the country's premier amateur league, has asked Sison to be part of its coaching staff, just days after the mentor quit his post.

"There are talks between him and the management," TeleTech team manager Benjie Castillo said yesterday. "We're still forming the coaching staff and it's definitely an option (to hire Sison). But nothing has been formalized."

Sison confirmed that negotiations are ongoing, but clarified speculations that he's after the top coaching position.

"It will be for consultancy and not as head coach," said Sison. "I will be more comfortable as a consultant. As I've said, I want to take a back seat [when it comes to] coaching right now."

TeleTech already announced last week that Jerry Codifera, the former star center of Purefoods in the PBA, will debut as its head coach in the Unity Cup starting March 25.

"Jerry and I have worked together before in FedEx (in the PBA)," noted Sison.

Castillo indicated that Sison could inject more knowl-

edge to his rookie squad.

"Robert has the experience, you can't deny that," said Castillo. "He's been around in the MBA and the PBL, and he has a good reputation of winning."

Sison, however, still has a live contract with Montaña until 2007.

"I haven't heard from them but I don't see any problem [in settling any contract dispute]," said Sison, who steered the Jewels to their first ever title in the 2005 Open Championship. "I want to move on. Montaña has also moved on right now with coach Nel Parado."

Sison stepped down as head coach last Monday after a disagreement with the Montaña management regarding a young player's recruitment.

Montaña clarified the following day that management suspended Sison even before he decided to quit. Parado took over as interim coach.

Team officials did not disclose the reason for the suspension. Sources said, however, that the rift simmered when management wanted to acquire tall rookie Samigue Eman from Rain or Shine in exchange for veteran Alex Compton, a trade that Sison reportedly did not want.

As of yesterday, however, sources said that Rain or Shine wasn't keen on releasing the young, 6-foot-9 stand-out from Davao.



ROBERT Sison: Back seat, please.

RUDY ESPERAS

Peek perfect . . .

From page A17

Calvin Murphy, Otis Birdsong, Kevin Willis, Darryll Dawkins will make up the rest of the team, which, if plans push through, will arrive in May.

The scores:

First Game:
COCA-COLA 81—All 27, Antonio 15, Abarrientos 9, Miranda 8, Arigo 6, Slingson 5, Reavis 5, Mamari 3, Walwright 3, Lao 0, Morano 0, Francisco 0

ALASKA 69—Cortez 17, Cariso 17, Be-

lasco 10, Dela Cruz 9, Hugnatan 6, Allado 6, Thoss 2, Bajar 2, Franco 0, Wilson 0, Laure 0

Quarters: 26-14, 47-22, 67-42, 81-69

Second Game

SAN MIGUEL 101—Seigle 24, Ildefonso 19, Racela 15, Peña 14, Calagulo 13, Adriano 12, Hontiveros 2, Noble 2, Kong 0, Lopez 0. . .

RED BULL 93—Tugade 19, Fofiacler 14, Bufla 12, Villanueva 12, Pennisi 9, Robinson 7, Bagulo 7, Cruz 5, Alvarez 4, Valenzuela 4, Najorda 0

Quarters: 25-19, 52-39, 71-70, 101-93



PICHAY: Unity pledge

Pichay strongest NCFP candidate

THE MAN REPUTED TO BE THE strongest candidate to head the National Chess Federation of the Philippines has a pledge: if elected, he would give obscure and unrated players the attention they deserve.

Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay, who is favored to win the chess presidency during elections today, noted that there are only 100 or so Filipinos with Fide (international chess

federation) ratings, even though the country has thousands of players.

"If these players don't have ratings, what would motivate them to compete and pursue a career [in chess]?" said Pichay during the SCOOP sa Kamayan forum at the Kamayan restaurant on Padre Faura yesterday.

Pichay said Filipino players lack international exposure and only play in tournaments that don't really allow them to

sharpen their talents.

The NCFP polls are set at noon today at the Celebrity Sports Plaza in Quezon City. Representatives of accredited chess clubs will elect 15 members of the board of directors. The new NCFP head will be chosen from among the directors.

Pichay also promised to unite the warring factions in local chess which had either backed or opposed the policies of outgoing president Go Teng Kok.

'Chess is just like showbiz'

ALTHOUGH SURIGAO REP PROSPERO "Butch" Pichay says the outcome of today's NCFP elections at the Manila Hotel is uncertain, scribes who attended yesterday's SCOOP sa Kamayan session told me the process is a mere formality and that the Surigao del Sur congressman should be the hands-down choice for the presidency.

"First, the members of the board will be elected. We can expect Pichay, Tagaytay Mayor Bamol Tolentino and former NCFP president Go Teng Kok to each get a seat in the board," one of the scribes from a daily tabloid predicted. "After this, the board elects the president. The choice of Pichay should be unanimous."

Aware that the association has always been immersed in controversy, Butch's first order of the day, if elected, is unification. Butch's vision is to bring back the golden age in chess.

"Parang showbiz kasi 'yang chess, masyadong kontrobersyal, kaya ang unang dapat gawin ay ma-unite muna lahat. Does anyone of you know who is the current world champion?" he asked the scribes, obviously to stress the point that nobody knows because nobody cares.

"People have lost interest in chess," he lamented. "Dapat maibalik yan."

Being the head of a sports organization like the NCFP is not an easy task, Butch admitted. "Chess players are not the easiest people to deal with. They are like artists. They have moods and peculiarities. But I think I can help them, by getting sponsors and staging a monthly tournament for them. And we don't even have to depend on government funding. I intend to tap the private sector," he said.

One of Butch's major plans is to hold an international tournament here where European chessers will be invited to compete.

Butch sure has a well-planned blueprint for the NCFP.

According to Ben Viloria, Brian's dad, those press releases from the Elorde camp about a projected fight between his son and challenger Juanito Rubillar, former WBC International light flyweight champ, are just that: press releases.

Very recently, though, promoter Bebop Elorde proposed the fight in a letter to the WBC.

The WBC responded by urging Elorde to negotiate with Brian's manager, Gary

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis



Gittelsohn.

Although Brian said he is willing to take on Rubillar—or any other challenger for that matter—Ben Viloria doubts if the match can be scheduled in the next two or three months.

Ben said Brian's fractured hand will need more time to heal.

I don't want to disappoint you, folks, but I don't think the BAP issue is about to be settled.

In fact, I think the national basketball controversy could even worsen.

From what I gathered from reliable sources, POC president Peping Cojuangco doesn't want to retain the name BAP (which its president, Joey Lina, has been fighting for during his meetings with the country's basketball stakeholders) despite the FIBA's rejection of the rival group Philippine Basketball Federation Inc.

And because Joey has not been updating the other BAP officers of the developments in his meetings with the stakeholders, he is now being eyed with suspicion.

The appointment of Michel Lhuillier as the new BAP chair is a screaming message that Lina's executive committee will not honor the new constitution and by-laws drafted by the former senator and the basketball stakeholders. The draft proposes a new structure or table of organization that may or may not include the present set of BAP officers.

Congratulations to the La Salle Green Hills mini basketball team for capturing the NCR Palaro 2006 13-and-under championship over the San Beda Alabang squad which walked out halfway through the game.

With La Salle ahead by 19 points, 26-7, SBC Alabang coach Aldrin Morante vehemently protested a traveling violation called on one of his players, subsequently signaling his team to walk out. The game ended in a furor, with one SBC Alabang parent hurling a chair into the court.

LSGH coach Emmanuelle Mesa's boys swept the double elimination round.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006

NCRAA

Doves grab 7th crown

LEOMER LOSENTES AND FILIPINO-AMERICAN hotshot Chris Pacana came through at the clutch and towed the St. Francis of Assisi College Doves past the Arellano University Flaming Arrows, 76-72, yesterday and claim their seventh National Capital Region Athletic Association men's basketball crown.

Losentes finished with 21 points, including two free throws with 42 seconds left that handed the Doves a 10-point edge and allowed St. Francis to end the best-of-three series at 2-1.

Christopher Concepcion added 15 points for the Doves. Pacana, a prized recruit from Los Angeles, California, chalked up 13 points.

"I'm proud of the guys," said Doves coach Gabby Velasco. "They were determined to get back the trophy, to get back the championship they lost last year."

The Doves won their sixth crown two years ago, but were not able to defend it last season when they missed the semifinals due to injuries to their key players.

Orlando Daroya scored a game-high 22 points for the Flaming Arrows.

Suns lose shine against hot Spurs

PHOENIX—TONY PARKER poured in 29 points and back court partner Manu Ginobili chipped in with 18 as the San Antonio Spurs dumped the Suns, 117-93, on Thursday.

Tim Duncan had 16 for the red-hot Spurs, who shot a sizzling 55 percent on the way to collecting their eighth win in nine games by snapping the Suns' win run at 11.

Shawn Marion had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Boris Diaw flirted with a triple-double with 16 points; nine rebounds and nine assists but the Suns lacked their usual spark without league MVP Steve Nash, who missed his first game of the season with a sprained ankle.

The Suns scored the first basket but it would be their only lead of the game as the

Spurs followed up with an 8-0 run and never looked back leading, 38-19, after the opening quarter and 64-50 at the half.

After the break the Spurs continued to pour it on, opening up a 20-point advantage before coasting into the final 12 minutes with a commanding 89-71 edge.

In Philadelphia, Carmelo Anthony hit for 29 points and pulled down 10 rebounds to overshadow another dominant display from Allen Iverson leading the Denver Nuggets past the 76ers, 97-93.

Anthony's total included the go-ahead bucket with 18 seconds to play as the Nuggets held on to post their third straight win.

Ruben Patterson contributed 20 points to the Denver cause while Marcus Camby helped out with 13 points and 14 rebounds.

No other Nuggets hit double figures.

Iverson turned in a typically energetic effort, pouring in a game high 38 points along

with six rebounds and six assists.

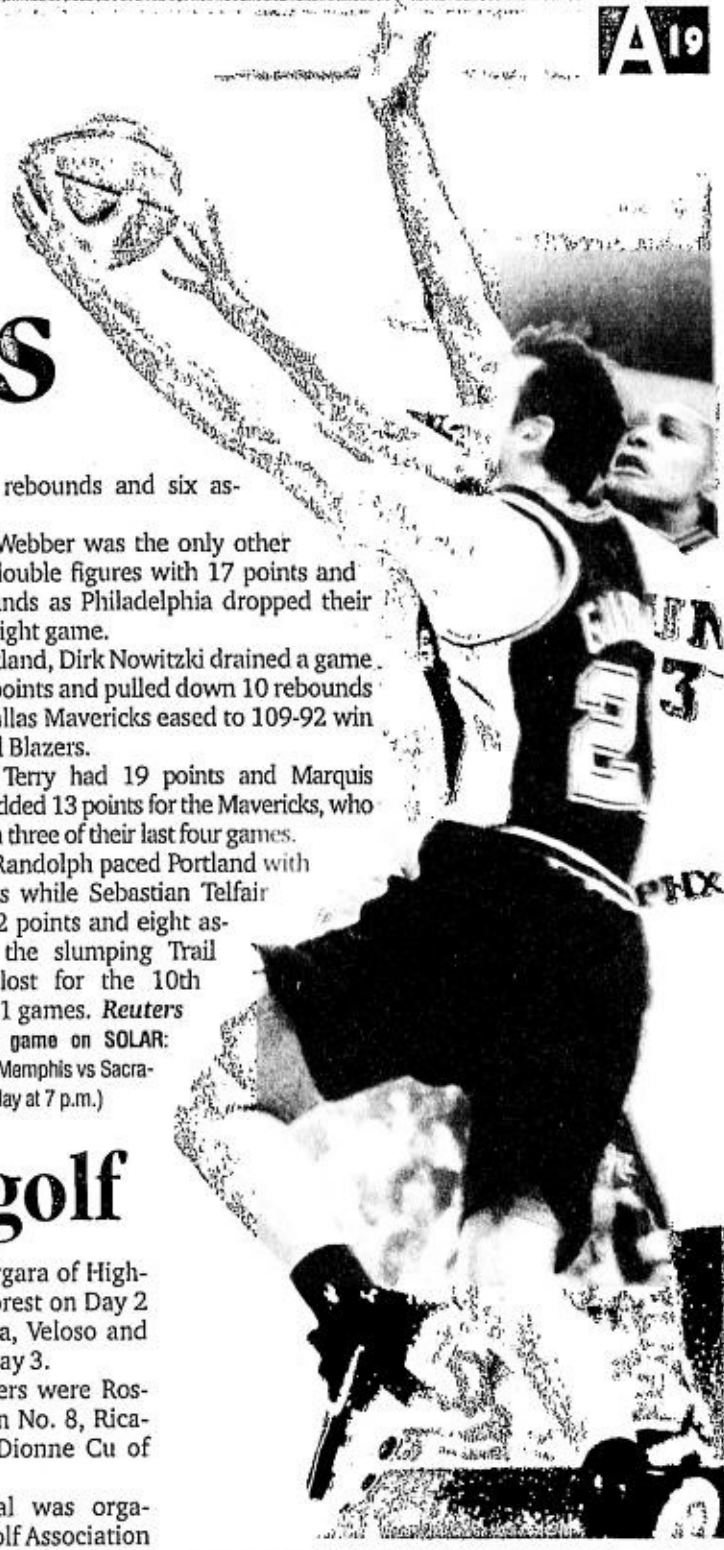
Chris Webber was the only other 76er in double figures with 17 points and 20 rebounds as Philadelphia dropped their third straight game.

In Portland, Dirk Nowitzki drained a game-high 33 points and pulled down 10 rebounds as the Dallas Mavericks eased to 109-92 win over Trail Blazers.

Jason Terry had 19 points and Marquis Daniels added 13 points for the Mavericks, who have won three of their last four games.

Zach Randolph paced Portland with 29 points while Sebastian Telfair added 12 points and eight assists as the slumping Trail Blazers lost for the 10th time in 11 games. *Reuters*

● NBA game on SOLAR: 11 a.m.—Memphis vs Sacramento (replay at 7 p.m.)



MANU Ginobili soars for a layup.

AP

Sta. Elena, Highlands dominate 39th Capati golf

STA. ELENA CAPTURED THE OVERALL team trophy while Veronica Veloso of Tagaytay Highlands bagged the overall individual award in the 39th Dominga Capati Memorial Tournament yesterday at the south course of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

Sta. Elena, which posted runner-up finishes in Class A and Class C, earned a total of 16 points to clinch the Dominga Capati Trophy.

Veloso amassed 127 points after rounds of 41, 40 and 46, winning the individual plum over Carina Ricamonte of Sta. Elena, who made 123 and settled for the Class A trophy.

Tagaytay bagged the Class B plum in a runaway fashion over Alabang to highlight a big show in the three-day tourney that saw the Highlanders win four other awards.

Canlubang, bannered by Lina de

Guzman, topped Class A of the team competition after nipping Sta. Elena in a countback.

Alabang took Class C over Sta. Elena with plenty to spare.

Winning the other individual categories were Rose Torrefranca in Class B and Carmen Co of Forest Hills in Class C.

Day 1 individual winners were Ricamonte, Nati Toribio and Co; Beth

Romero and Marissa Vergara of Highlands and Lilian Lu of Forest on Day 2 and Rio Co of Sta. Elena, Veloso and Mary Anne Colayco on Day 3.

Nearest-the-pin winners were Rosalie Heo of Highlands on No. 8, Ricamonte on No. 13 and Dionne Cu of Highlands on No. 17.

The Capati Memorial was organized by the Women's Golf Association of the Philippines.

SPORTSWATCH

Butsumyo first female qualifier to poker finals

KIM BUTSUMYO BECAME THE FIRST FEMALE player to qualify to the main event of the Philippine Poker Tour Million-Peso Hold'em Philippine Championship set April 8-9 at the Airport Casino Filipino Parañaque. Butsumyo advanced to the finals along with 12 others from Metro Manila. They are Francis Amaldo, Balu Renganatan, Kenny Karseboom, Paul Santos, Gotch Chua, Ronald Regis, Grant Butsumyo, Oliver Zapanta, Ricky Sarmiento, Tim Vphili, Mauri Bulautian and Raymond Umagat. Four players from Cebu City—Alfonso Canizares, Raymond Garcia, Manuel Regis and Nonoy Tirol—also made it to the main event, bringing to 37 the number of finalists. Aside from prizes worth P1 million, the winner will bring home the Champion's Bracelet and the title as the first Hold'em champ. A total of P1.6 million will be awarded to the top 10 finishers, said chief organizer Rey Gamboa. Over 250 players have so far participated in non-wager satellite tournaments being held at San Mig, Alabang Town Center, Valle Verde Country Club, El Pueblo at Ortigas Center, and Rajah Park Hotel, Cebu City. For inquiries, call 817-9092 or 812-0153.

DHL jungolf series resumes

ACTION IN THE FIRST DHL-WWW EXPRESS National Age-Group Golf Championships resumes today with the staging of the Mindanao leg at the Pueblo de Oro Golf and Country Club in Cagayan de Oro City. The organizing National Golf Association of the Philippines said the 36-hole tournament ending tomorrow will have competitions in the 15-17, 13-14, 11-12 and 9-10 age brackets. The four-leg regional series kicked off at The Orchard last month. The top two placers in each group will advance to the finals set May 9-11 at Villamor. For inquiries, call 525-6987 or 524-5160.

UP basketball tryouts set

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES FIGHTING Maroons, under coach Joe Lupa, will be holding basketball tryouts on March 22 and 23, starting at 6 p.m., at the UP gym. Open to high school students, the tryouts, Lupa said, will be the last for the UP men's team that is preparing for the coming UAAP wars.

Zabong, Firefly share title

THE IMPORTED ENTRIES OF JV MAGSAYSAY (Zabong RT 114) and of Ernie Austria and Joe Wolcott (Firefly 100 RM) scored 5 points each to share the championship of the National Cockers Association's first 7-cock derby for March last Thursday. Ito Ynares' Binangonan Balbina missed sharing the title by a mere half-point when it scored a heartbreaking draw in the penultimate flight of the derby. Third placers with 4 points each were Jaen Col. VGB Firefly of Eilan Nagano, Wild Wing Sundance of Ronnie Puno, Jade Resort of Arman Santos and Red Creek I and Red Creek II of Iggy Arroyo. The 3-pointers were BR Fatman S Bacolor of Tony Tan, RM Firefly of Amboy Manpalaz, Jade Resort Jullane of Arman Santos, Firefly RM 13, and Mulawin VGB Colorado of Frank Berin.

Pacman's derby Monday

BOXING HERO MANNY PACQUIAO, IN COOPERATION with WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp., will present the Super Pacman 5-Cock Derby on Monday at Makati Coliseum with B-Meg Derby Ace as sponsor. Pacquiao will count on the support of popular cockers to make this blockbuster event a success. Among them are Gov. Chavit Singson, Patrick Antonio, Wakee Salud, William Co, Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud, Gov. Ito Ynares, Louie Cua, Boy de Roca and Eric dela Rosa. For inquiries, call 896-3545 or 895-6475.

'Largahan' at Roligon today

MORE THAN 100 SMALLTIME COCKERS AND BREEDERS are seeing action in the opening round of the P2-million Largahan 5-Cock Derby which start at 3 p.m. today at Roligon Mega Cockpit. To be hosted by promoter Rolly Ligon, the four-day cockfest sponsored by Thunderbird Enertone and Lakpue Drug Inc. comes on the heels of Roligon Anniversary Derby where Ed Patawaran of Bulacan emerged as solo champion. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 or 852-9812.

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Arcilla turns back Anasta, captures Kobe Gakuin Cup

NATIONAL PLAYER JOHNNY ARCILLA WORKED BEHIND A SOLID FOREHAND TO OVERPOWER ELBERT ANASTA, 6-3, 7-5, yesterday and rule the 2006 Kobe Gakuin Cup Invitational Tennis tournament at the Ayala Alabang Tennis Club.

Arcilla won the champion's purse of P20,000 while Anasta got P10,000 in the tournament orga-

nized by Camoy Palahang, a teammate of Felix Barrientos, Roland So and Robert Angelo in the RP Davis Cup team in the 1990s.

"Putting up this event is my way of helping my fellow Filipino players," said the 39-year-old Palahang, who's in his third year as head coach of the visiting Kobe Gakuin University team. "This tournament is

also part of my team's training program."

Under Palahang, who also trained members of Japan's national junior team and women players, the Kobe Gakuin University squad ended a 40-year-old title drought by winning last year's Division II title in the Kansai Gakusei League. The title victory promoted the squad to Division I play this year.



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Indie film 'crashes' Oscar's party

By Nestor U. Torre

WE REALLY MUST GET OUT OF the movie-award prediction business. Our "educated guesses" for the Academy Awards last week scored in the best director (Ang Lee), actor (Philip Seymour Hoffman) and actress (Reese Witherspoon) categories, but missed out on the best picture plum, which went, not to "Brokeback Mountain," but to the independent film, "Crash"—which literally crashed Oscar's party!

Many awards groups also placed their bets on "Brokeback," but some weeks ago, there was a buzz growing about "Crash" as the awards' dark horse—and it looked like it simply galloped away with a plurality of the US film Academy's votes.

Hindsight

What could have spelled the difference? This is all hindsight now, but some believe that "Brokeback" couldn't have won because it was a film about gays, and the straight majority (yes,

even in Los Angeles) wouldn't warm up to it enough to give it a best picture award.

Working in "Crash's" favor, on the other hand, was its huge ensemble of actors, and its provocative theme about racial conflict and the many forms of violence it engenders.

The fact that Ang Lee won as best director even as his film, "Brokeback Mountain," lost the top plum may suggest that Academy members thought it best to separate the movie's controversial subject matter from its

directorial handling.

This isn't the first time it's happened, but the separation of movie from director in terms of awards is sure to generate additional controversy and discussion.

Vision

After all, there are people who believe in the *auteur* principle of filmmaking, which posits the belief that a film reflects the vision of its writer-director. A plurality of the Oscar voters this year obviously believes that this need not always be the case.

Contributing to the discussion is the fact that "Crash" also won for original screenplay, while "Brokeback" copped the adapted screenplay award.

This would appear to cancel out the screenplay factor in figuring out why the Academy members voted the way they did in the best picture category.

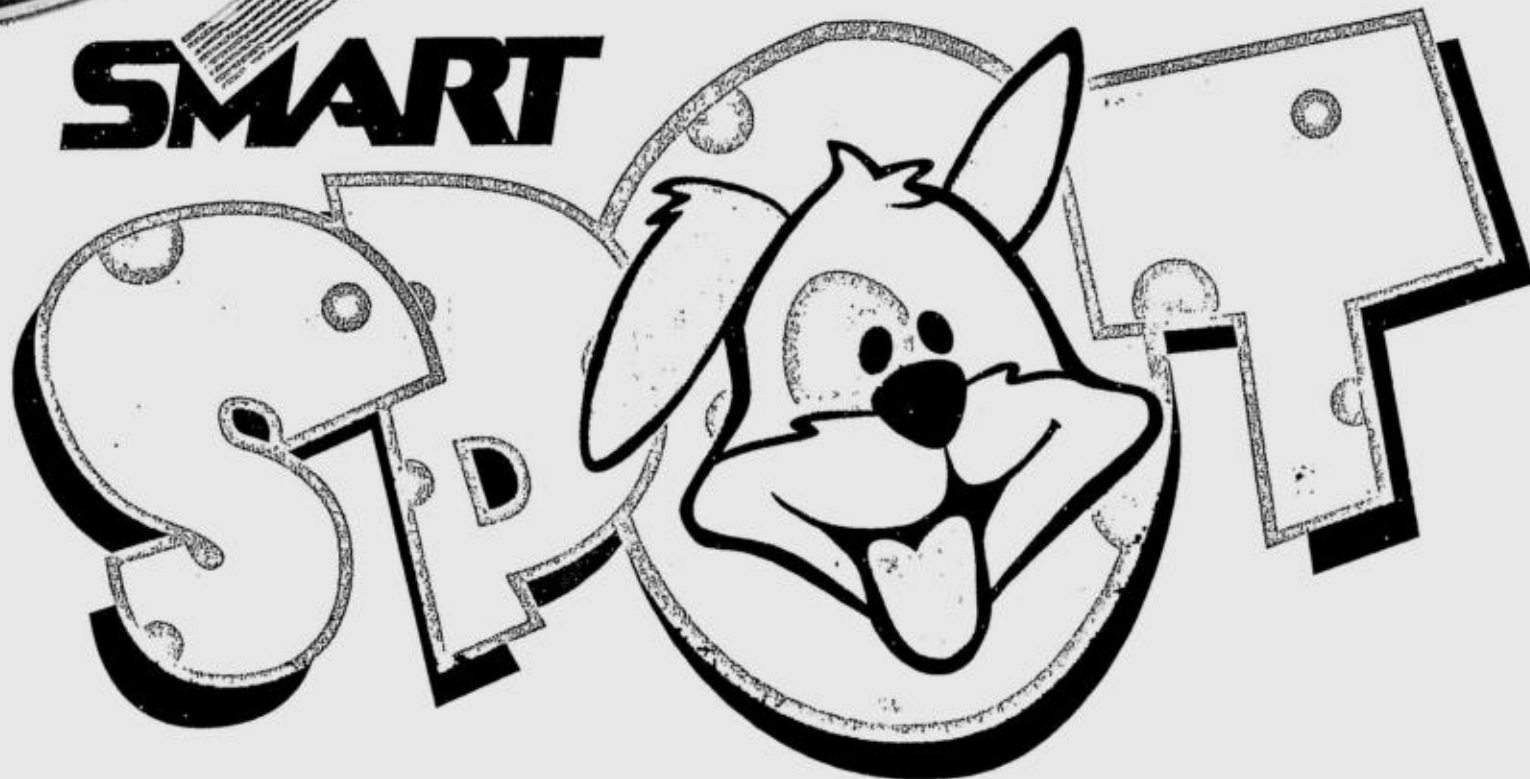
Another big winner at the Oscars was George Clooney, who won as best supporting actor for "Syriana." He may have lost in the bigger director ("Good Night, BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE") category.

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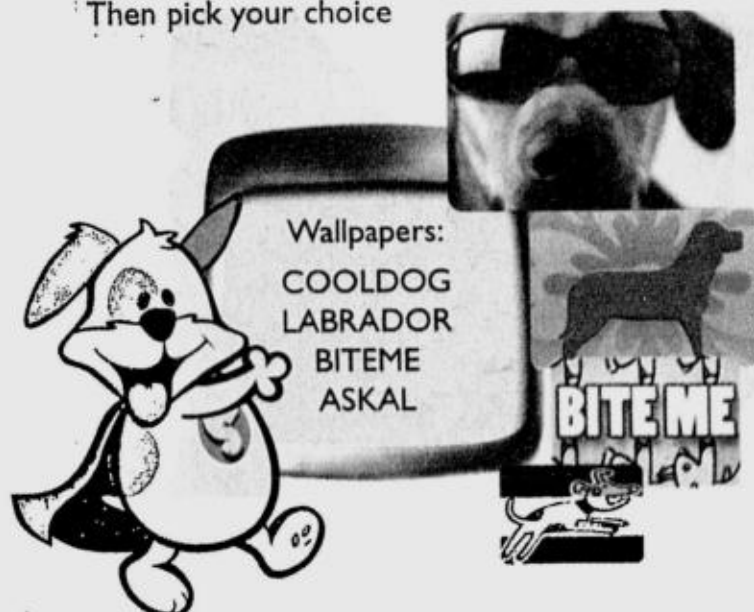
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Remembering Astaire and Kelly

By Behn Cervantes

FRED ASTAIRE WAS Hollywood's finest male dancer in the golden age of cinema. Only Gene Kelly could challenge his illustrious place in the entertainment scene.

But, while Fred was an urban sophisticate, Gene was an acrobatic Everyman. Astaire—often in signature tuxedo and top hat—was always dressed to the nines. Gene, on the other hand, was often clad in dungarees, street clothes, or a sailor's uniform.

Big break

Fred initially found acclaim by dancing with his sister, Adele. On the other hand, shortly after Kelly had found success on the legitimate stage in "Pal Joey," Hollywood beckoned (via "Cover Girl," with Rita Hayworth) and later crowned him worthy successor to Fred's throne.

Although neither performer had a great singing voice, they were nevertheless credited for in-



KELLY. Masculine approach.

roducing the latest songs of Cab Calloway, Cole Porter and George Gershwin to the public.

Astaire is best remembered for his partnership with Ginger Rogers. The duo was known for their obvious rapport, but when the two thespians danced together in "Zeigfeld Folies," fans appreciated their respective styles.

Acrobatic style

On the other hand, Kelly was paired with Hollywood's most beautiful and talented dancers. His acrobatic style and masculine approach found synergy with the terpsichorean skills of Cyd Charisse and Leslie Caron. He is best remembered sharing the big screen with Debbie Reynolds and Donald O'Connor in "Singing in the Rain."

However, one of Tinseltown's performers outshone Gene's constant partners: A feisty, tiny mouse named Jerry, (from "Tom and Jerry"), who danced with Kelly in 1945's "Anchors Aweigh."

Indie . . . From page A2-1

and Good Luck") category, but his supporting-actor victory was significant in its own right because it appeared to be his colleagues' tribute, not just to his acting talent, but to his growth as a filmmaker, as a whole.

Difficult issues

Clooney more than lived up to his peers' esteem for him when he took the Oscars as an occasion to share his admiration for US film people's daring in making their viewers confront difficult issues, rather than run away from them.

"This group of people gave Hattie McDaniel an Oscar in 1939—when blacks were still sitting in the back of theaters," he pointed out. "I'm proud to be a part of this Academy."

Also successful in vindicating himself at the Oscars was first-time host, Jon Stewart, who refused to give up his political-satirist persona, even as he got strong laughs with some of his more entertaining broadsides.

"Crash," Clooney and Stewart made the 2005 Oscar awards unique and memorable for us. They were true winners, one and all!

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A GRIEF-STRICKEN FAMILY, A TRAGEDY-HAUNTED HOUSE ON THE CLIFFS OF WALES AND A SMALL TOWN'S SECRET HISTORY

In an attempt to pull her family together, New Yorker Adele Tullian travels with her daughter Sarah to Anglesey, Wales in the U.K. to visit her contractor father - James Tullian.

The morning after they arrive, Sarah mysteriously vanishes. While the parents desperately search for Sarah, a guilt-ridden Adele is haunted by visions of her daughter as though she is trapped somewhere inside the haunted house. Adele soon learns of an ancient local legend of a place called *The Dark* - an ethereal land of the dead - and she becomes convinced that Sarah is communicating to her from *The Dark*.

Not long after Sarah disappears, Adele and James find themselves involved with a girl who not only bears a striking resemblance to their missing daughter, but reveals that she has returned from the dead to inform them on how to get Sarah back. They must follow the rule: 'one of the living, for one of the dead. The living must be sacrificed so that the dead can return. Townsfolk suspect that the Tullians are succumbing to the legacy of madness and murder that overwhelmed the house's previous tenants.'

THE DARK
SEAN BEAN MARIA BELLO

BASED ON A TRUE INCIDENT THAT TAPS INTO A WELSH MYTHOLOGY

AT THE CINEMAS

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G1	GLORIETTA 1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 16 BLOCKS	3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 THE DARK
G4	GLORIETTA 4	1 CASANOVA	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS	3 16 BLOCKS 1:30, 3:45, 6:00, 8:15, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 LAST HOLIDAY
GB1	GREENBELT 1	1 DATE MOVIE	2 CASANOVA		
GB3	GREENBELT 3	1 16 BLOCKS 1:40, 3:35, 5:30, 7:25, 9:20, 11:15 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 16 BLOCKS 2:30, 4:45, 7:00, 9:15, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC	ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 16 BLOCKS	2 CASANOVA		
ACC	AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 16 BLOCKS	2 DATE MOVIE	3 YOURS, MINE & OURS	4 ST. ANGE
M2	MARKET! MARKET!	1 16 BLOCKS	2 YOURS, MINE & OURS		
		3 UNDERCLASSMAN	4 CASSANOVA	5 DATE MOVIE	

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Jasmine Trias Visit March 11, 2006	Anson's Emporium Exhibit March 12 to 31, 2006
AYALA CENTER CEBU	MARKET! MARKET!
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SATURDAYSpecial

Fresh, stimulating action in '16 Blocks'

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU'RE FEELING A BIT
winded from the brisk pacing of
today's action flicks, you might

find the real-time pace of Bruce Willis's new starrer a welcome change. Directed by Richard Donner, "16 Blocks" has a story that unfolds within the time-

frame of the movie's 105-minute running time.

In the film, Willis plays Jack Mosley, an NYPD cop whose simple job of transporting Eddie Bunker (Mos Def), a criminal-turned-grand jury-witness from the precinct to the courthouse 16 blocks away turns out to be hairier than it seems.

Assassin

Bunker turns out to be a chatterbox, a character trait that the hung-over Jack doesn't appreciate. That's hardly the worst part though, because when he stops to load up on alcohol, an assassin nearly blows up the head of his witness.

Jack soon realizes that he's opened a can of worms when his friends in blue turn out to be the "real" bad guys behind the bad guys. He listens to his conscience.



WILLIS AND DEF. Solid piece of work.

then a long chase ensues.

Despite the familiar tricks of the action trade, "16 Blocks" manages to be a step above the usual action-movie fare:

The shots are grainier, the camera freer, and the characters—not the action—are the center of the movie.

Alcoholic

Willis' Jack Mosley is old.

tired and balding—an alcoholic with a bad leg and a paunch. In one of the film's significant scenes, we watch his weary progress down the corridor of his precinct: He's too drained to even notice that he's gone past the door to his department. This aging is quite convincing—but, he is *still* Bruce Willis, after all, so you just know that he'll still be able to save the day. He

doesn't accomplish this with the usual slickness, but with a lot of out-of-shape panting and sweating.

Sincerity

Def plays his character with sincerity and charisma that will have you rooting for him. His performance, in fact, surpasses Willis', since the latter plays the straight guy in this particular partnership.

Another notable performance is David Morse's portrayal of the villainous detective, Frank Nugent. His boyish face is incongruous with his nefarious deeds.

"16 Blocks" is a solid piece of work. It may feel like a return to the '80s' way of making action movies, but it nevertheless remains fresh and stimulating.

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Manila Philharmonic Orchestra (Mar 11) Rachel Ann Go (Mar 12) Barbie Almatos (Mar 25) Starmall Edsa

'We're Still Hot!'

CATCH J.J. MCCOLE'S "We're Still Hot!," a delightful comedy-musical at the Teatrino in Greenhills on March 17.

**STREET
SMART**



Mandy Navasero

Directed by Leo Ripalp, "We're Still Hot! The Musical" follows four women "of a certain age" who meet for the first time at a reunion 35 years after high school graduation. The talented cast includes Lynn Sherman, Shama Romualdez,

Range of emotions

Niña plays Zsu Zsu, the eternal optimist, who takes us through an impressive range of emotions.

Shamaine portrays Marnie, the 53-year-old businesswoman who keeps a longtime lover—the husband of one of her closest friends!

Lynn delivers a hilarious performance as Kate, the single mother of a thirtysomething son who has just left home. For her part, Pinky plays Cynthia, a "typical housewife" who endures a faithless husband.

The musical presents insights into the joys, sorrows and frustrations of aging, and the new discoveries that come with it. Do yourselves a favor: Don't miss it!

WE'RE/ A2-2



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M M T A

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MOVIE GUIDE

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1:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS <i>GP</i>				
2:30pm	16 BLOCKS <i>PG-13</i>				
3:00pm	DATE MOVIE <i>R18</i>				
4:00pm	CASANOVA <i>R13</i>				
PREMIERE					
5:00pm	LAST HOLIDAY <i>R13</i>				

No. 1000, Corner Alibon Road, Marikina City
Telephone: 432-2701/4331/4332/4333

1:00pm	THE DARK				
2:00pm	FINAL DESTINATION 3				
3:00pm	UNDERCLASSMAN				
4:00pm	DATE MOVIE				
5:00pm	16 BLOCKS				
6:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS				
7:00pm	CASANOVA				
8:00pm	FEARLESS				
9:00pm	CLOSE TO YOU				
10:00pm	THE LAST HOLIDAY				

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1	16 BLOCKS				
2	FEARLESS - PG-13				
3	YOUR, MINE & OURS - GP				
4	DATE MOVIE - R18				

Sambag Highway cor. Vaypa off Fernandez Street
Sta. Miko, Marikina City Tel. 534-0127

1:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS				
2:00pm	DATE MOVIE				
3:00pm	16 BLOCKS RESERVED				
4:00pm					

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Telephone: 432-2701/4331/4332/4333

1	16 BLOCKS				
2	FEARLESS - PG-13				
3	YOUR, MINE & OURS - GP				
4	DATE MOVIE - R18				

Isulan Cinema Complex Recto
Tel. 7324-4224

1:00pm	FEARLESS				
2:00pm	THE DARK				
3:00pm	YOURS, MINE & OURS				
4:00pm	16 BLOCKS				
5:00pm	DATE MOVIE				

(Mandaluyong) Tel. 72661610

3	FEARLESS				
4:00pm	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION				
5:00pm	16 BLOCKS				

www.clicktheater.com.ph

1	TIGER BLADE				
2	16 BLOCKS				
3	CASANOVA				
4	FEARLESS				

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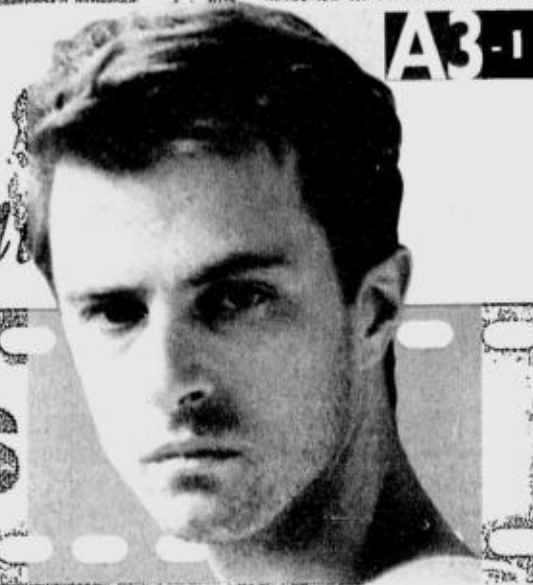
1:00pm	FIREWALL				
2:00pm	PINK PANTHER				
3:00pm	AEON FLUX				

THE NEW WORLD
PINK PANTHER
RESERVED

1	PINK PANTHER			
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SATURDAY Special

NOW SHOWING Love and its many forms



By Rito P. Asilo

"The Keys to the House"

D: Gianni Amelio
S: Kim Rossi Stuart, Charlotte Rampling

FOR MOVIE BUFFS WHO ARE LOOKING for grittier cinematic fare to "chew" on this week, make a beeline for Gianni Amelio's flawed but soul-stirring father-son drama—currently being screened at Robinsons Galleria—about a confused father, Gianni (Kim Stuart Rossi, 2004 Venice filmfest best actor winner), who has to take his handicapped 15-year-old son, Paolo (Andrea Rossi), from Italy to Berlin for a series of medical tests.

The catch: He hasn't seen the boy since he abandoned him at birth. Now, he has to deal with his guilt as he tries to make amends for the sins of his youth.

"Casanova"

D: Lasse Hallström
S: Heath Ledger

Heath Ledger hams it up as he plays Giacomo Casanova, the fabled 18th century Lothario, who finds himself ironically attracted to Francesca (Sienna Miller), a feisty feminist who is betrothed to a wealthy businessman to save the dwindling fortunes of her family.

Lasse Hallström delivers a delightful, farcical romp that, unfortunately, fails to examine the psychological turmoil and motivations that drive the lonely man behind the insatiable lover. Now, he faces his biggest challenge: Understanding the real meaning of love.

"The Dark"

D: John Fawcett
S: Maria Bello, Sean Bean

John Fawcett adeptly uses darkness as a metaphor and a directorial device to explain

his intriguing narrative—about Adelle (Maria Bello), an American mother whose daughter, Sarah, vanishes under mysterious circumstances when she visits her estranged hubby, James (Sean Bean), in the Welsh countryside. The seaside community's dark, brooding se-

crets—involving evil and mythology—soon unfold.

The film's initially engrossing premise is soon overwhelmed by its dawdling pace—and downward-spirals into a confounding finale.

STUART. Won best actor in Venice for his touching performance.

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March 12, 2006 Sunday

6:00 p.m.
PAGDATING SA DULO
starring: Rita Gomez

9:00 p.m.
ORO, PLATA, MATA
starring: Cherie Gil, Sandy Andolong

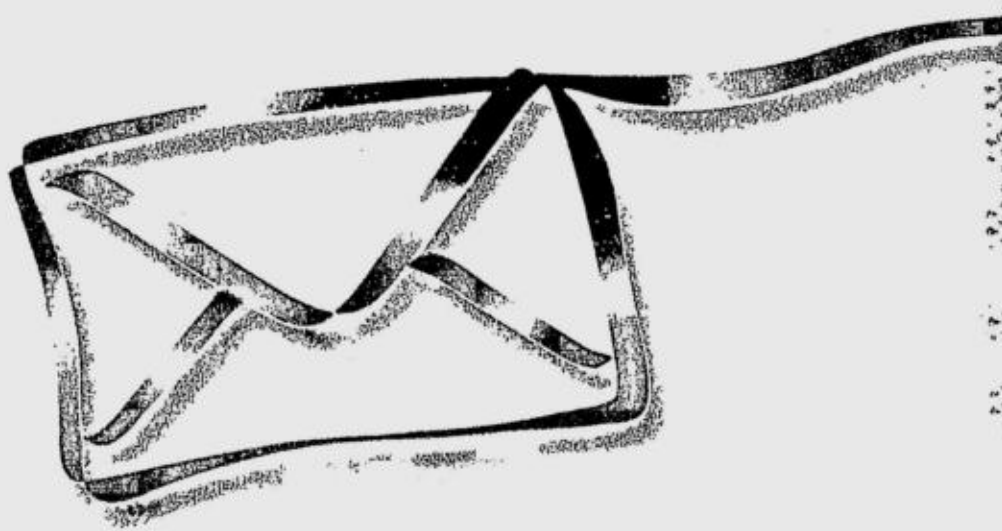
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DIRECTED BY LASSE HALLSTRÖM
CASTING BY OLIVER STAPLETON, B.S.C. COSTUME DESIGNER SU ARMSTRONG MUSIC BY ADAM MERINS EDITOR GARY LEVINSON PRODUCTION DESIGNER MARK GORDON EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS BETSY BEERS LESLIE HOLLERAN
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 CASANOVA • THX 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS 11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45
2 DATE MOVIE 11:15 1:20 3:25 5:30 7:35 9:45	7 BROKEBACK MOUNTAIN 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
3 16 BLOCKS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	8 UNDERCLASS MAN 1:00 3:10 5:20 7:30 9:40
4 KEYS TO THE HOUSE 12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00	9 THE DARK 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
5 LAST HOLIDAY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00	10 FEARLESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

ERMITA 636-7809 to 12

1 16 BLOCKS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 LAST HOLIDAY 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00
2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 9:50	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 UNDERCLASS MAN 12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00	7 FEARLESS 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 THE DARK 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 LAST HOLIDAY 1:05 3:45 6:25 9:05	5 FEARLESS 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 9:00
2 CASANOVA 12:15 2:25 4:35 6:45 9:00	6 YOURS, MINE AND OURS 11:45 2:05 4:25 6:45 9:05
3 DATE MOVIE 11:00 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:15 9:15	7 16 BLOCKS 11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05
4 UNDERCLASS MAN 12:40 2:45 4:50 6:55 9:00	8 THE DARK 11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3228-30

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2 DATE MOVIE	5 16 BLOCKS
3 CASANOVA	6 UNDERCLASS MAN

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

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2 DATE MOVIE	2 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
3 RESERVE	3 DATE MOVIE
4 RESERVE	4 THE DARK

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4 FEARLESS	4 YOURS, MINE AND OURS
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SM MEGACINEMA 16 BLOCKS 10:15FS / 10:45 MF 01:00 / 03:15 / 05:30 07:45 / 09:30LFS / 04:30 LMF / 06:00 END YOURS, MINE & OURS APO HIKING CONCERT RESERVED LAST HOLIDAY CASANOVA THE DARK UNDERCLASS MAN FEARLESS FINAL DESTINATION 3 TIGER BLADE CLOSE TO YOU	SM CITY STA. MESA FEARLESS THE DARK CASANOVA FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE YOURS, MINE & OURS LAST HOLIDAY CLOSE TO YOU UNDERCLASS MAN	SM CITY SOUTHMALL CASANOVA FEARLESS RESERVED 16 BLOCKS LAST HOLIDAY UNDERCLASS MAN YOURS, MINE & OURS FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK RESERVED
SM CITY NORTH EDSA CASANOVA 16 BLOCKS THE DARK RESERVED LAST HOLIDAY FINAL DESTINATION 3 YOURS, MINE & OURS FEARLESS	SM CITY BICUTAN 16 BLOCKS UNDERCLASS MAN YOURS, MINE & OURS FEARLESS	SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS CLOSE TO YOU
SM CITY DASMARINAS FEARLESS 16 BLOCKS YOURS, MINE & OURS SYRIANA	SM CITY SAN LAZARO 16 BLOCKS FINAL DESTINATION 3 THE DARK FEARLESS CASANOVA YOURS, MINE & OURS	SM CITY SUCAT YOURS, MINE & OURS FEARLESS 16 BLOCKS CLOSE TO YOU

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SM CITY MARILAO BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FEARLESS CLOSE TO YOU UNDERCLASS MAN	SM CITY BATANGAS PINK PANTHER CLOSE TO YOU BLOODRAYNE MUNICH	SM CITY LUCENA PINK PANTHER CLOSE TO YOU UNDERWORLD NEW WORLD
SM CITY CEBU MEMOIRS OF GEISHA 11:30FS / 02:00 / 04:30 07:00 09:24 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:50 END FEARLESS 10:50FS / 11:00 MF 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 07:24 / 09:10 LFS / 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END 16 BLOCKS 10:50FS / 11:00 MF 01:06 / 03:12 / 05:18 7:24 / 09:10 LFS 09:30 LMF / 11:15 END YOURS, MINE & OURS ST. ANGE NASAAN SI FRANCIS CLOSE TO YOU AEON FLUX	VISAYAS MINDANAO SM CITY ILOILO YOURS, MINE & OUR RESERVED BIG MOMMA'S HOUSE FEARLESS CLOSE TO YOU NEW WORLD RESERVED MEMOIRS OF GEISHA	SM CITY MOLINO FINAL DESTINATION 3 FEARLESS UNDERCLASS MAN 16 BLOCKS
SM CITY DAVAO FIREWALL PROOF CLOSE TO YOU FEARLESS YOURS, MINE & OURS AEON FLUX	SM CITY CAGAYAN WALK THE LINE FEARLESS AEON FLUX FIREWALL	

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A3-2



CUNET. In top form as interviewer.

Sharon needs stronger support

By Nestor U. Torre

ON THE SECOND telecast of her new TV show last Sunday, March 5, Sharon Cuneta chose to focus on an extended discussion of that old talk-show topic: Male-female relations.

Sharon was in top form as interviewer, asking the right questions, knowing how to draw her guests' candid comments out, and being genuinely interested in them.

Point of view

Unfortunately, however, she got little real support from the other people on the show—resource persons Bayani Agbayani (for the male point of view) and Asia Agcaolii (for the female).

For his part, Bayani was so out of it that a flustered Sharon had to work harder to make up for the slack. Asia did better, but she too eventually became predictable in her "liberated" comments.

If Sharon wants her show to be really eventful and delightful, she needs better

SHARON/A3-3

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Sharon needs stronger support

support than this. Otherwise, she'll end up exhausting herself in gamely trying to make up for others' limitations.

It was a good thing that some members of the studio audience

fared better. The experiences they shared were interesting because they were real and diverse.

All told, however, the show suffered from lack of focus. "Male-fe-

male relations" is simply too diffuse a topic for a TV show. As a result, the discussion touched on a lot of details, but few helpful final

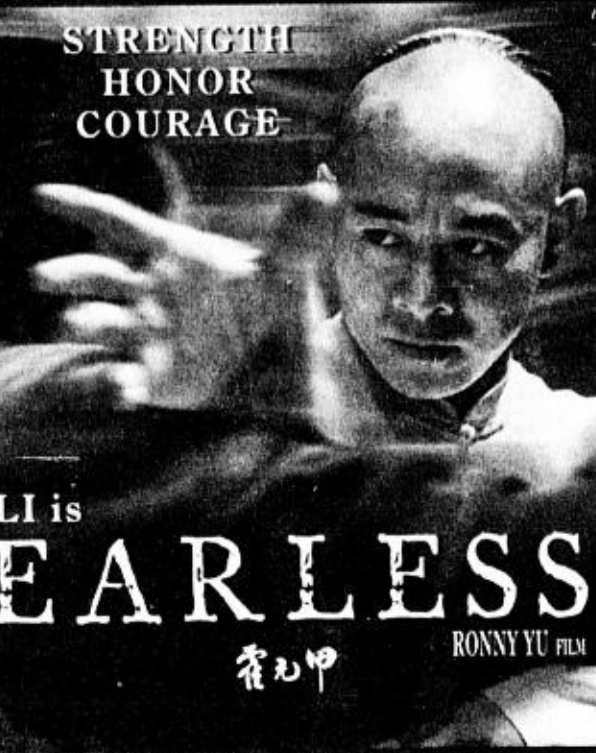
SHARON/A3-4

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2 16 BLOCKS
MTRCB PG-13
12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00 LMF

3 DATE MOVIE
MTRCB R-18
1:20, 3:30, 5:40, 7:50, 10:00

4 CASANOVA
MTRCB R-13
12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

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R13

2 LAST HOLIDAY
10:35, 12:50, 3:10, 5:35, 8:05, 10:30
GP

PROMENADE

NOW SHOWING

3 YOURS, MINE & OURS
11:40, 1:55, 4:05, 6:15, 8:25, 10:35
GP

4 DATE MOVIE
10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
R18

5 16 BLOCKS
10:50, 1:05, 3:20, 5:35, 7:50, 10:10
PG13

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MARCH 18, 2006 VINA M. RACHEL A. GENEVA C. 9:00PM
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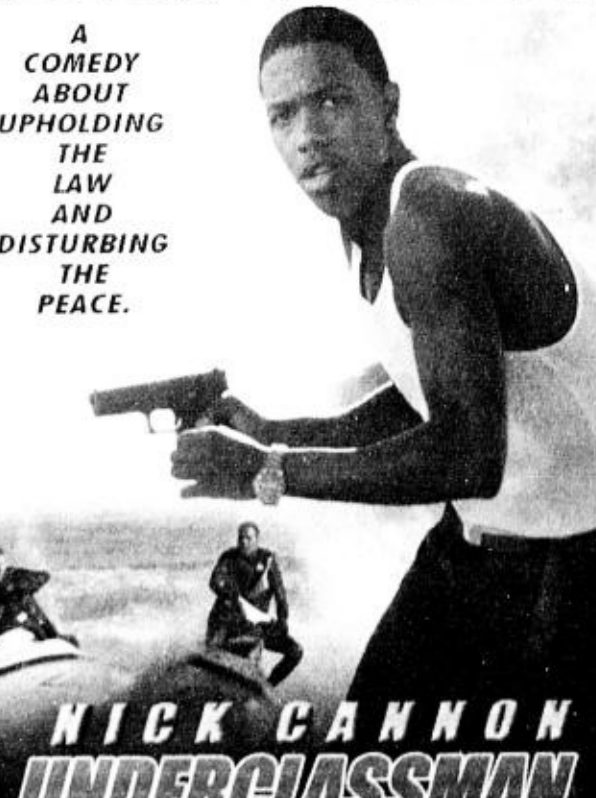
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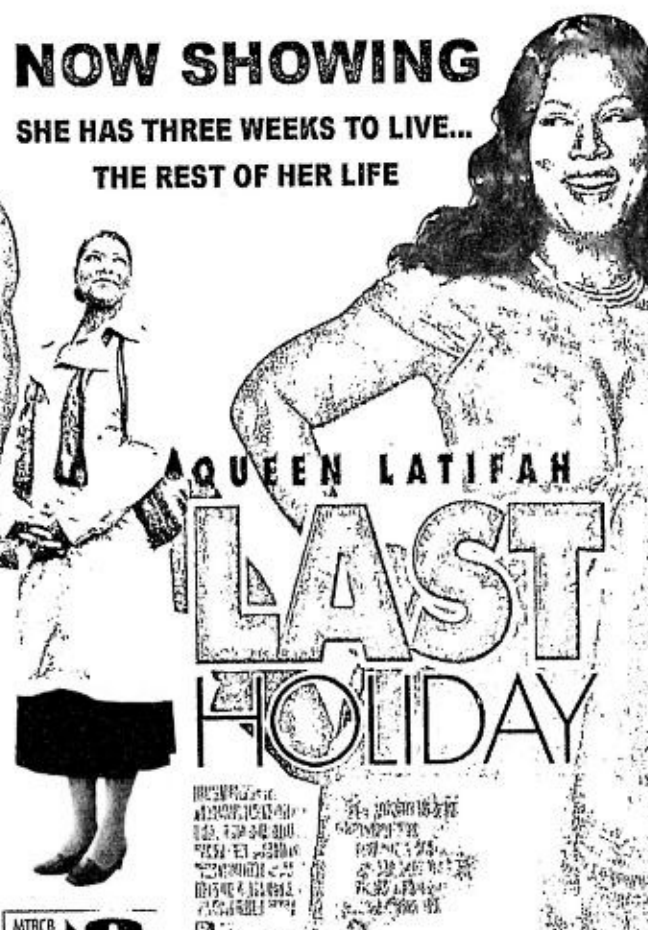
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DATE MOVIE R18 1:40, 3:40, 5:40, 7:40, 9:40	CASANOVA R13 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:10	YOURS, MINE AND OURS G 1:45, 3:55, 6:05, 8:15, 10:25
THE LAST HOLIDAY G 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00	UNDERCLASSMAN R13 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:45, 9:50	16 BLOCKS PG13 1:35, 3:45, 5:55, 8:05, 10:20

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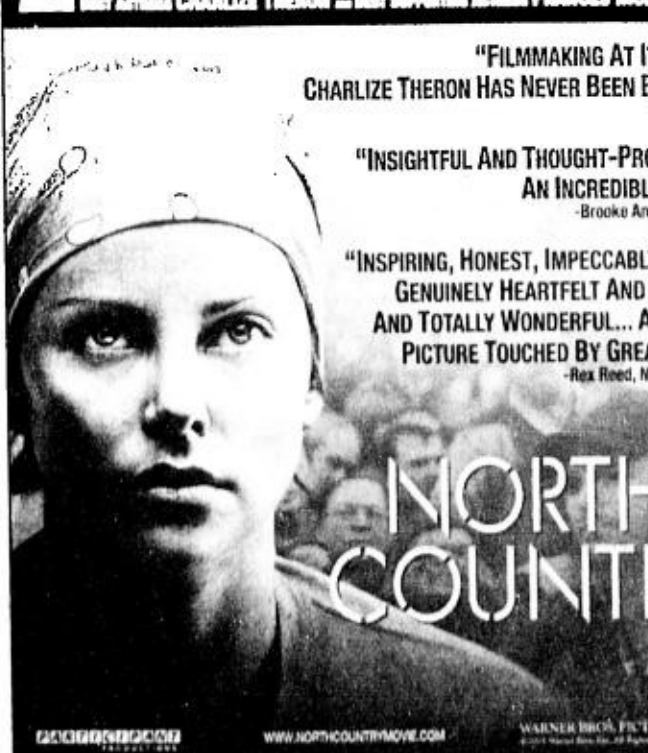
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3	16 BLOCKS 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13
4	LAST HOLIDAY 11:55, 2:35, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35 GP

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GLORY ROAD

WINNING CHANGES EVERYTHING

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Sharon needs stronger support

From page A3-3

conclusions and realizations were achieved. What we're saying is that Sharon is a good interviewer, but she needs more help, not just from the show's other on-camera talents, but also from the members of its production team. It's their job to think up fresh topics, and to delimit

the discussion for greater focus and relevance. The fact that this didn't happen last March 5 may suggest that some of Sharon's co-workers think that, with her on the show, they can simply coast along. Wrong. With poor support, even the "mega" likes of Sharon can stumble.

You nurtured her for months but could lose her in just 48 hours.

Wyeth

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Streptococcus pneumoniae is the bacteria that causes IPD. This silent enemy lives in the nose and throat and is carried around by children without any sign of sickness. In fact, 20-40% of them are perfectly healthy children. IPD is airborne and can spread by direct exposure to those who carry the bacteria. Simple coughing and sneezing are sure ways of contracting it.

Therefore, it puts children with immature and weak immune systems at great risk. Those suffering from chronic diseases such as sickle cell disease, HIV and chronic heart and lung disease are likely to be easily infected. Frequent exposure to other children, such as in day care centers, makes your child highly susceptible to IPD.

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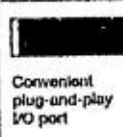
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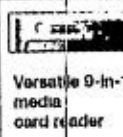
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BUSINESS

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Consumers see better times ahead

BSP survey notes favorable job outlook

By Doris C. Dumlaog

FILIPINO HOUSEHOLDS SEE BETTER TIMES AHEAD AND PLAN to buy more assets this year in anticipation of favorable employment conditions here and abroad, the latest Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' survey showed.

The consumer expectations poll for the first quarter noted that overall consumer outlook in the Philippines surged to an all-time high since the BSP started the quarterly households survey in 2004 as a guide in its monetary management.

The BSP's latest survey indicated that conditions would favor the purchase of consumer durables, houses and lots and motor vehicles in the quarters ahead.

"Consumers are more optimistic about both their households' financial condition and the country's economic state in the first quarter of 2006 and the next 12-month period," BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said.

The overall diffusion indices for all cate-

gories—containing views on the current quarter, next quarter and for the next 12 months—were on an uptrend and at their record highs on expected increases in income arising from better business conditions and more working family members.

The diffusion index (DI) is the percentage share of respondents who answered in the affirmative less those who answered negative in a given indicator. A negative DI indicates a bearish view when measuring confidence levels.

The respondents—consisting of 2,353 households within the National Capital Region picked at random from Jan. 20 to 26—also attributed their rising optimism to increases in

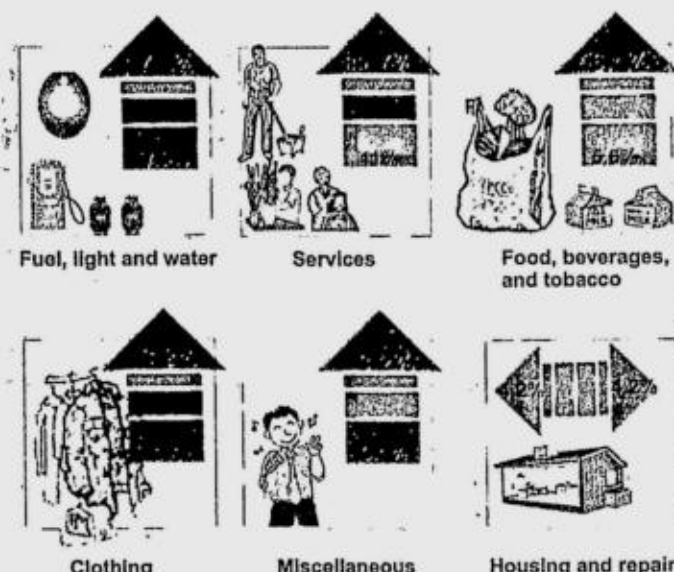
CONSUMERS/B4

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Prices still going up

February inflation rate rose by close to a full percentage point to 7.6 percent from 6.7 percent in January as prices of all commodity groups, except for housing and repairs, further increased.

Source: National Statistics Office
Chona B. Galang, PDI Research

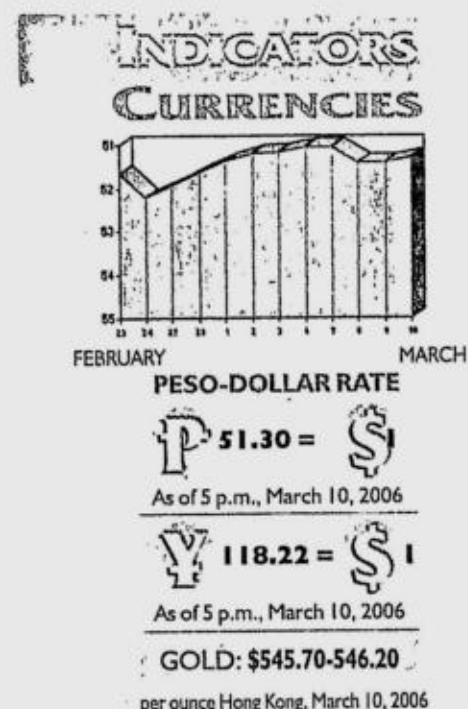
WHAT'S INSIDE

Expect no changing of the guard at local bourse

/B4

PCCI calls on gov't to temper peso movement

/B10



STOCK MARKET

Shares close lower

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.3 percent lower yesterday as the market consolidated in the face of the downturn on Wall Street and the release of disappointing January export figures, dealers said.

The consolidation mode came following recent sharp swings and in the absence of new, compelling leads, they added.

The composite index slipped 6.40 points to 2,103.37 after trading between 2,091.17 and 2,110.08. The broader all-shares index fell 6.80 points to 1,017.43.

Losers outnumbered gainers 46 to 39, while 56 stocks ended unchanged. Volume was 935.87 million shares worth P730.3 million.

"The market is so cautious. It seems investors are re-assessing their positions," said Jonathan Ravelas of Banco de Oro Universal Bank.

"There (are) no new news to speak of that would further support the market's rise. It needs fresh leads," he said.

Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. ended down P15 at P1,800.

AFP

ON LOWER ELECTRONICS SHIPMENTS

Exports down 0.7% in January to \$3.26B

By Michelle V. Remo

MERCHANDISE EXPORTS shrank by 0.7 percent in January to \$3.261 billion from a year ago, pulled down by the decline in earnings of the electronics sector, which is feared to be losing a huge market share to foreign competitors.

Documents from the National Statistics Office showed that electronics exports, which account for the bulk of Philippine exports,

dropped 2.2 percent to \$2.13 billion in January.

Benjamin Diokno, economics professor at the University of the Philippines, told the INQUIRER that the decline in electronics exports could not be blamed solely on the slowdown in global demand but also to the aggressive marketing by neighboring countries.

He said Malaysia, Thailand and China were giving tough competition to local electronics firms and could gradually eat a

substantial share of the Philippine export market.

"The scary part is that it (low exports) may be permanent given that electronics exports of other countries are growing. We have not prepared enough for this. We should have diversified our exports a long time ago," Diokno said in an interview.

He said uncertainty in the political environment could have also contributed to the decline in exports. Buyers are normally con-

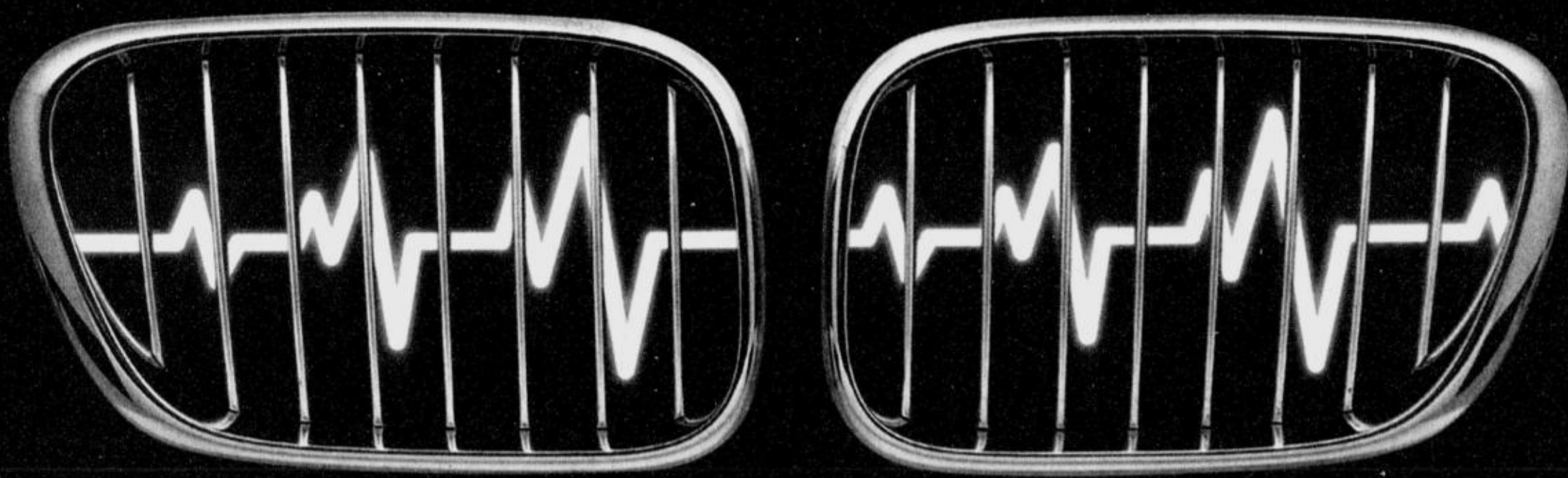
cerned that instability might disrupt supply and therefore choose to buy their requirements from countries that are deemed stable, Diokno explained.

But the government is keeping its 10-percent export growth target for the full year, although macroeconomic targets are currently being reviewed.

Dennis Arroyo, director for policy and planning of the National Economic and Develop-

EXPORTS/B4

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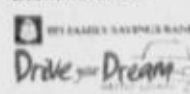
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Industry players join hands to put Negros Occidental on the tourism map

By Carla P. Gomez
PDI Visayas Bureau

BAOLOD CITY—MAJOR TOURISM players in Negros Occidental on Monday launched the Negros Island Tourism Inc. to more aggressively promote the province in the leisure and convention markets.

Gov. Joseph Marañon, who spoke during the program launch at the Capitol Social Hall, lauded the NITI organizers for joining forces to put Negros Occidental on the tourism map.

"This has been my challenge, that they should focus on being united in order to be recognized," he said.

The NITI board of trustees is headed

by Ruth Minerva Cruz of the Bacolod Convention Plaza Hotel and Sonia Sarrosa of Nature's Village.

Sarrosa said the launching was a "celebration of the collaboration" between the tourism players in the province and the local government units.

In a validation workshop conducted

by the Small and Medium Enterprise Development for Sustainable Employment Program (Smedsep) in 2004, representatives of different industries in the province said tourism had the greatest potential for employment generation.

The Smedsep, a joint project of the German Technical Cooperation, the

Department of Trade and Industry and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, commissioned a comprehensive study that profiled the tourism industry in Negros Occidental.

This was followed by a study mission that recommended the tourism body.

TVI Pacific yields \$12M from mine

Canatuan prospect produces gold, silver

DIPOLOG CITY—THE CANATUAN GOLD mine in Siocon, Zamboanga del Norte, posted \$12 million in foreign exchange earnings last year, according to its operator, Canadian firm TVI Pacific Inc.

The revenue earnings in 2005 came from 18,839 ounces of gold and 464,250 ounces of silver extracted from gossans in the mine.

Gossans, which consist of sulfide ores, limonite and silica, are used by prospectors to trace gold and silver deposits.

Quoting figures from unaudited financial reports, TVI president and executive officer Clifford James said in a statement that the company's total operating cost amounted to about \$11 million, which included amortization for deferred mining costs and depreciation.

James said TVI processed close to 200,000 dry metric tons of gossans last year.

The processed materials had an average mineral grade of 3.62 grams of gold a ton and 150.4 grams of silver a ton.

Recovery averaged 82.61 percent for gold and 50.1 percent for silver.

Ore processing in Canatuan was constrained in the second quarter of 2005 due to limited tailings dam space, affecting milling operations for five months starting March, the statement said.

The Canatuan mine is the first foreign-financed mining venture under the 1995 Mining Law to reach production stage.

Its operation has been opposed by a segment of the Subanen tribe in the area. Ryan D. Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau

DuPont teams up with Boysen

By Ronnel W. Domingo

DELAWARE-BASED DUPONT TITANIUM Technologies, owner of the world-renowned Teflon brand, has entered into a partnership with Pacific Paints (Boysen) Philippines Inc. to make and sell a new line of paint.

DuPont global branding manager James V. Forte said yesterday the collaboration resulted in the use of Teflon surface protection in the production of an "innovative" coating.

"We chose (Boysen) as our partner in the Philippines because of its market leadership resulting from its continuous innovation in technology and marketing," Forte said.

In 1938, DuPont scientists discovered by accident a compound called polytetrafluoroethylene, whose non-stick property proved useful in cookware, houseware, apparel and

now in coatings.

He explained that this kind of paint was first developed in the late 1990s and that its introduction in the Philippines comes at the heels of similar efforts in Japan and Thailand here in Asia.

"This paint is basically for the high-end market and is aimed at meeting the need for a coating with classy looks but is easy to clean and at the same time relatively longer lasting," Forte said.

Johnson Ongkiko, Pacific Paints vice president, said the new product dubbed Virtuoso, prevents dirt, such as grease and oils, dust, grime and even food stains, from sticking to painted surfaces.

Ongkiko said the company would make the Virtuoso using existing equipment in its factory in Cavite.

LET'S TALK MONEY!

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Let's Talk Money is a series of three seminars designed to help the Filipino woman take charge of her personal finances. The past few months have been difficult and let's face it, the next few months will be just as difficult money-wise. How can we live with what we earn without going into debt—whether on just one income or on several incomes. How can we get to where we want to go with the money we have. How can we make our money work for us? Do we have what it takes to start and run our own business?

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LA: 299sqm, F.A.: 135sqm.
Lot 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-D Subd.
Road, No. 15, Kalkid Sur.
Minimum Bid Price: 994,850.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 1,416sqm.
Lot 4 Arenas St., Brgy. Mayagayap.
Minimum Bid Price: 692,800.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 268sqm.
Lot 50 N271 Brgy. Kalkid Sur.
Minimum Bid Price: 171,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
LA: 311sqm.
Lot 1559-A-2-M, Existing Road, Brgy. Samon.
Minimum Bid Price: 66,087.50

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
LA: 738sqm.
Lot 1863-B Undeveloped Road, N.S. Garcia.
Minimum Bid Price: 531,800.00

LOT 6 - VACANT LOT
LA: 188sqm.
Lot 44 Bk. 9 B74 Apo St., Mabini Honrada Brgy. Paludipod.
Minimum Bid Price: 324,000.00

LOT 7 - VACANT LOT
LA: 317sqm.
Lot 3973-B-3-B-2-C-5-N ProvL Road, No. 15, Kalkid Sur.
Minimum Bid Price: 333,887.00

LOT 8 - VACANT LOT
LA: 305sqm.
Lot 1089 Brgy. Patalac.
Minimum Bid Price: 32,300.00

LOT 9 - VACANT LOT
LA: 207sqm.
Lot 4 Bk. 14 Irenovilla Subd., San Isidro.
Minimum Bid Price: 242,100.00

LOT 10 - VACANT LOT
LA: 240sqm.
Lot 28 Bk. 23, 9th St., Bk. 23 Kap. Popo Subd.
Minimum Bid Price: 592,800.00

LOT 11 - VACANT LOT
LA: 324sqm.
Lot 7 Prov Rd Brgy Bantug.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,231,200.00

LOT 12 - VACANT LOT
LA: 467sqm.
Lot 1886-E-8 Alley, Brgy. Padre Cristobal.
Minimum Bid Price: 294,300.00

GAPAN
LOT 13 - VACANT LOT
LA: 586+405+505+372=1948 sqm.
Lot 9, 3922, 1, 3925 Brgy. San Lorenzo Poblacion, Gapan City.
Minimum Bid Price: 6,063,000.00

GEN NATIVIDAD
LOT 14 - VACANT LOT
LA: 900sqm.
Lot 124 Brgy. Malaas Na Kahoy.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

Gen. Natividad
Minimum Bid Price: 244,800.00

LOT 15 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.60 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-9 Brgy. Malaas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,199.00

LOT 16 - VACANT LOT
LA: 320.50 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-1 Brgy. Malaas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 40,863.75

LOT 17 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.60 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-8 Brgy. Malaas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,199.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.70 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-14 Brgy. Malaas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,211.75

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
LA: 299.60 sqm.
Lot 3537-A-5 Brgy. Malaas Na Kahoy, Gen. Natividad.
Minimum Bid Price: 38,199.00

LOT 20 - LOT WITH MAKE-SHIFT IMPROVEMENT
LA: 321sqm.
Lot 1296-Bk1-P-Ramos St.
Minimum Bid Price: 45,200.00

LOT 21 - VACANT LOT
LA: 31,914sqm.
Lot No. 3782 Brgy. Kulang.
Minimum Bid Price: 136,000.00

LUPAO
LOT 22 - VACANT LOT
LA: 47,580sqm.
Lot 2100 Brgy. Sto Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 156,000.00

MUNOZ
LOT 23 - VACANT LOT
LA: 783sqm.
Lot 1672-J Maharika Hwy.
Minimum Bid Price: 90,000.00

PENARANDA
LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 7,588sqm.
Lot 3588 Parida St., San Josef.
Minimum Bid Price: 701,400.00

RIZAL
LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 13 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 64,800.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 14 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 312sqm.
Lot 15 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 49,920.00

LOT 28 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 6 Bk 1 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 29 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 5 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 6 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 10 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 32 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 5 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 33 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 8 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 34 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 10 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 12 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 36 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 315sqm.
Lot 18 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 50,400.00

LOT 37 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 323sqm.
Lot 13 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 52,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 292sqm.
Lot 1 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 45,720.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 328sqm.
Lot 14 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 52,800.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 374sqm.
Lot 17 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 60,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 14 Bk 4 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 75,360.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 471sqm.
Lot 18 Bk 4 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 75,360.00

LOT 43 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 403sqm.
Lot 3 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 64,800.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 435sqm.
Lot 15 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 69,760.00

LOT 45 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 637sqm.
Lot 16 Bk 3 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 101,920.00

LOT 46 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 4 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 7 Bk 2 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 300sqm.
Lot 3 Bk 4 Brgy. Estrella.
Minimum Bid Price: 48,000.00

SAN ANTONIO
LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 762sqm.
Lot 32 Buiran, San Antonio.
Minimum Bid Price: 59,250.00

SAN JOSE
LOT 50 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 105sqm.
Lot 1635-B-1 B37 Cadill St.
Minimum Bid Price: 470,250.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 327sqm.
F.A.: 81sqm.
Lot 15 Soto Labot, Brgy. A Pascual.
Minimum Bid Price: 227,200.00

LOT 52 - VACANT LOT
LA: 191sqm.
Lot 8 Bk 13 Christianville Subd., Abat 1.
Minimum Bid Price: 326,800.00

STA ROSA
LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 9,816sqm.
Lot 27 Soto Pagasa, Brgy. Mapalod.
Minimum Bid Price: 837,000.00

LOT 54 - VACANT LOT
LA: 2,500sqm.
Lot 2727-C-2-A Brgy. Mapalod.
Minimum Bid Price: 255,000.00

STO. DOMINGO
LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 979+3120+4093 sqm.
F.A.: 280sqm.
Lots 2236-C & 2234 Brgy. Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 2,063,250.00

LOT 56 - VACANT LOT
LA: 612sqm.
Lot 11 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 364,140.00

LOT 57 - VACANT LOT
LA: 646sqm.
Lot 12 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 384,370.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
LA: 678sqm.
Lot 13 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 394,140.00

LOT 59 - VACANT LOT
LA: 710sqm.
Lot 14 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 422,450.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
LA: 752sqm.
Lot 15 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 447,440.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
LA: 607+1005+16134 sqm.
Lot 2160 & Lot 2159 Brgy. Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 459,800.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,080sqm.
Lot 21 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 128,250.00

LOT 63 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,143sqm.
Lot 22 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 135,731.25

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,206sqm.
Lot 23 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 143,212.50

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,269sqm.
Lot 24 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 158,693.75

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,332sqm.
Lot 25 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 158,175.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,397sqm.
Lot 26 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 165,893.75

LOT 68 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,459sqm.
Lot 27 Brgy., Malasin.
Minimum Bid Price: 173,256.25

LOT 69 - VACANT LOT
LA: 702sqm.
Lot 1 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 526,880.00

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
LA: 475sqm.
Lot 2 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 128,350.00

LOT 71 - VACANT LOT
LA: 346sqm.
Lot 3 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 92,036.00

LOT 72 - VACANT LOT
LA: 379sqm.
Lot 4 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 100,814.00

LOT 73 - VACANT LOT
LA: 412sqm.
Lot 5 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 109,592.00

LOT 74 - VACANT LOT
LA: 445sqm.
Lot 6 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 118,370.00

LOT 75 - VACANT LOT
LA: 479sqm.
Lot 7 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 124,114.00

LOT 76 - VACANT LOT
LA: 512sqm.
Lot 8 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 136,102.00

LOT 77 - VACANT LOT
LA: 545sqm.
Lot 9 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 144,970.00

LOT 78 - VACANT LOT
LA: 578sqm.
Lot 10 Malasin, Sto. Domingo.
Minimum Bid Price: 153,748.00

TALAVERA
LOT 79 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
LA: 1,210sqm.
Lot 2053-B-1 #457 Purok 4, Brgy. Calapagan.
Minimum Bid Price: 338,800.00

LOT 80 - VACANT LOT
LA: 12,211.50 sqm.
Lot 91 Brgy., Bakal II, Maharika Highway.
Minimum Bid Price: 3,219,750.00

TALUGTUG
LOT 81 - VACANT LOT
LA: 44,240sqm.
Lot 2279 Brgy. Alula, Talugtug.
Minimum Bid Price: 498,000.00

BULACAN
LOT 82 - VACANT LOT
LA: 181sqm.
Lot 5150-E Brgy. Talipip.
Minimum Bid Price: 81,750.00

BUSTOS
LOT 83 - VACANT LOT
LA: 829+91+500 sqm.
Lot 6-A-3, Lot 3, Lot 2 Camachilhan.
Minimum Bid Price: 441,150.00

CALUMPIT
LOT 84 - VACANT LOT
LA: 233sqm.
Lot 20 Bk 6 Casla Biflora Dr. Green Plains Subd. San Marcos.
Minimum Bid Price: 594,150.00

LOT 85 - VACANT LOT
LA: 200sqm.
Lot 14 Bk 6 Eucalyptus Dr., Green Plains., San Marcos.
Minimum Bid Price: 646,000.00

GUIGUINTO
LOT 86 - VACANT LOT
LA: 337sqm.
Lot 2 Ruby St., Rosaryville II.
Minimum Bid Price: 460,700.00

MEYCAULAYAN
LOT 87 - VACANT LOT
LA: 50sqm.
Lot 15 Bk 6 Emeco Subd. Brgy. Pandayan.
Minimum Bid Price: 148,750.00

LOT 88 - VACANT LOT
LA: 50sqm.
Lot 16 Bk 6 Emeco Subd. Brgy. Pandayan.
Minimum Bid Price: 148,750.00

LOT 89 - VACANT LOT
LA: 50sqm.
Lot 17 Bk 6 Emeco Subd. Brgy. Pandayan.
Minimum Bid Price: 148,750.00

LOT 90 - VACANT LOT
LA: 50sqm.
Lot 18 Bk 6 Emeco Subd. Brgy. Pandayan.
Minimum Bid Price: 148,750.00

SAN ILOFONSO
LOT 102 - VACANT LOT
LA: 1,820sqm.
Lot 3208 Villacorta St., Poblacion.
Minimum Bid Price: 1,365,000.00

SAN MIGUEL
LOT 103 - VACANT LOT
LA: 5,000sqm.
Lot 5033 San Jose.
Minimum Bid Price: 4,725,000.00

LOT 104 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 29 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

LOT 105 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 31 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

LOT 106 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 33 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

LOT 107 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 35 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

LOT 108 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 37 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

LOT 109 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 39 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

LOT 110 - VACANT LOT
LA: 264sqm.
Lot 41 Bk 6 Dona Crispina Homes, Agnaya.
Minimum Bid Price: 269,280.00

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Rios and Alvarado Committee
Capital Area, Damagante City

INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY & TO BID
The Bids and Awards Committee of the Provincial Government of Oriental Negros invites all interested bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following requirement, viz:

- 1) Various Electrical Supplies (ABC: 4245,100.00)
- 2) Various Construction Materials (ABC: 3,034,300.00)

The list of eligibility requirements is now available at the BAC Secretariat, Provincial General Services Office (PGSO) Damagante City, with Tel. # (035) 225-2433.

For the information and Guidance of all concerned, herewith is the schedule of the bidding activity for the aforementioned requirements, viz:

Activity	Schedule
1) Advertisement (PDI)	March 11 & 18, 2006
2) Submission of Eligibility Requirements to the BAC Secretariat, PGSO, Capital Area	March 10-30, 2006
3) The bid conference, PGSO, Capital Area	March 21, 2006, 9:00 A.M.
4) Submission and Opening of Bids, PGSO, Capital Area	March 20, 2006, 10:00 A.M.

The Committee on Awards reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formality and award the contract to the bidder whose bid proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgt.) ATTY. ISMAEL P. MARTINEZ
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee
Provincial General Services Office

(PDI-March 11 & 18, 2006)

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Cebu Pacific to borrow \$300 million for refueling

By Daxim L. Lucas

BUDGET CARRIER CEBU PACIFIC AIR INC. will take on more loans this year to finance its continuing refueling program to replace ageing aircraft with more efficient units.

Speaking to reporters during the airline's anniversary celebrations on Friday, Cebu Pacific president Lance Gokongwei said the airline plans to borrow as much as \$300 million this year to fund the acquisition of new aircraft.

"We are going for our second round of export credit agency financing for the June to September deliveries," he said, referring to the airline's order for new short- and medium-haul Airbus aircraft.

This year's planned borrowings make up the second tranche of Cebu Pacific's financing program, which began last year. All told, the airline's refueling program will cost more than \$600 million and will be completed by early 2007.

The new funds will be used to acquire six Airbus

A319s, Gokongwei said.

Cebu Pacific's refueling program calls for the purchase of 10 Airbus A319s and four Airbus A320s.

The airline—a unit of JG Summit Holdings Inc.—had initially ordered two Airbus A319s, but later converted its order into larger A320s to meet growing passenger traffic.

Meanwhile, Cebu Pacific general manager Danilo Mojica said that the airline's P10 fare scheme managed to attract "over 150,000" seat sales during the promotion period.

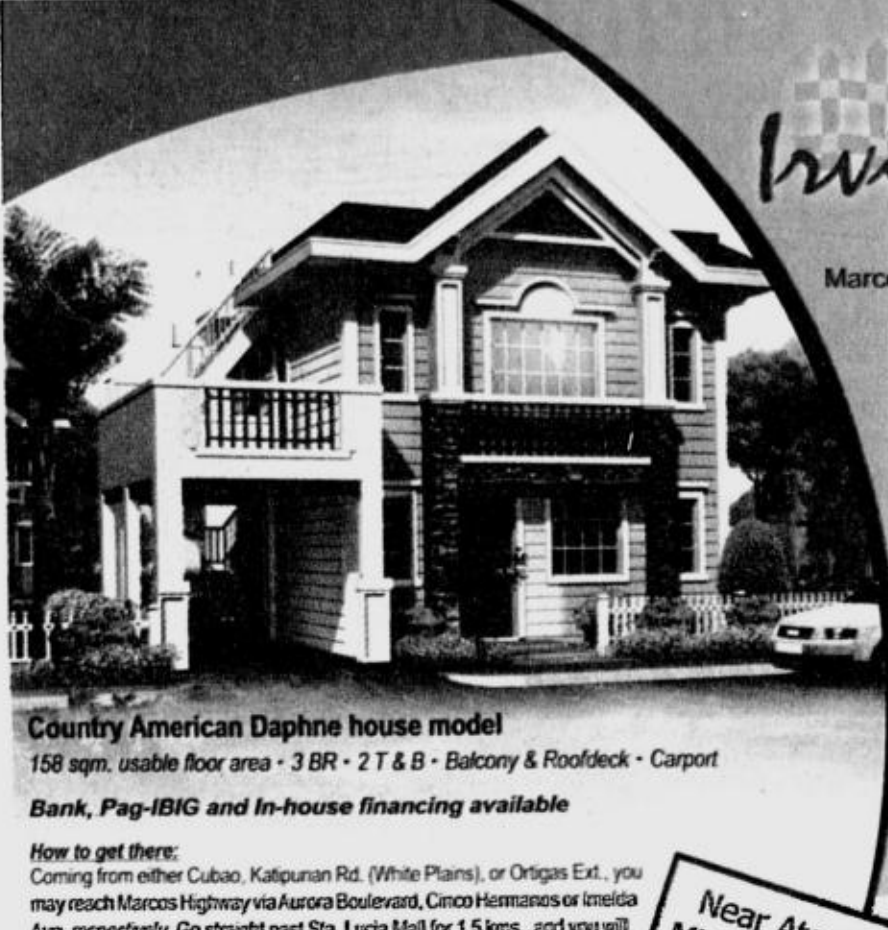
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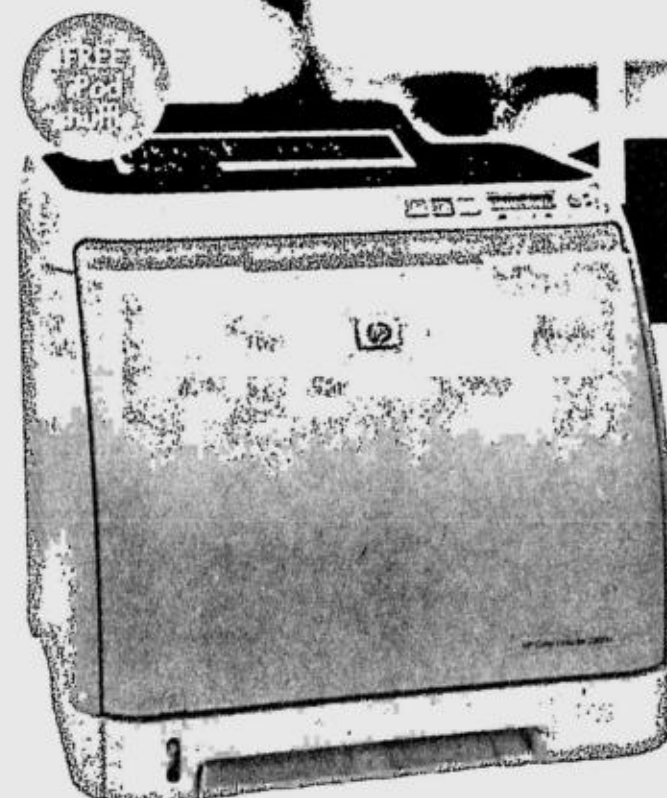
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For DDI-NCR permit no. 0971 Series of 2006

Expect no changing of the guard at local bourse

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

IT LOOKS LIKE RETIRED JUSTICE Jose Vitug will continue to be chair of the Philippine Stock Exchange.

According to sources at the PSE, Vitug has gained the support of the local bourse's two most influential brokers—Vivian Yuchengco and Robert Cuyuto Jr.

Long time rivals, Yuchengco and Cuyuto have found a common interest in throwing their support behind Vitug.

Also, each has expressed their respective plans to extend their terms as PSE directors.

The PSE will hold its annual elections on April 8.

"My goal right now is to have our chairman Justice Jose Vitug re-elected," Cuyuto told INQUIRER. "I look up to him as a most able leader, and I am behind him 100 percent. His high integrity and deep intellect will take our beloved exchange to greater heights."

Yuchengco earlier said she has dominated Vitug as chair.

Also, Vitug yesterday secured the permission of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to run as an independent director of the PSE.

The PSE yesterday said that PSE stockholders are given another opportunity to elect Vitug as an independent director and enable him to continue his PSE reform program.

The Securities Regulation Code requires the PSE to keep at least three independent directors in its 15-man board.

Sources said that at least twelve brokers have been nominated to the PSE board.

Aside from Yuchengco and Cuyuto, the following were also nominated: Eddie Gobing of Lucky Securities, Alejandro Yu of R.S. Lim & Co., Myron Timothy Papa of Papa Securities, Edwin Luy of Triton Securities Corp., Paul Wee of Accord Capital Equities, Marita Limlingan of Regina Capital Development Corp., Conrado Bate of CiticOnline, William Ang of Astra Securities Corp., Francisco Villaroman of Securities Specialists Inc. and Rodry Cruz of HK Securities.

The 12 have yet to accept their nominations.

Greedy school

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III



our neighboring countries. That, to me, is just well and good. Pfizer, after all, has a patent for the medicine.

It's just that, according to Pagdanganan, the price of the same medicine here are more than 700 percent more than in, say, India.

Again, that's more than 700 percent higher. Pfizer must think that we all did not even finish grade school in this country. Or that maybe we are still a US colony or something!

That's why PTC officially told Pfizer that it would import the same Pfizer brand of medicine from India, but not until the patent would have expired in June 2007.

To speed up the process, PTC has already submitted samples to the Bureau of Food and Drugs, shortening the process by 18 months.

In other words, as soon as the Pfizer patent expires, the drug would be available here at prices some 90 percent cheaper.

Hurriedly, Pfizer ran to the court in Makati, seeking a TRO. Uh-oh, how easy is it to get a TRO again nowadays?

NOW, it is up to the court. I cannot pretend to know about the patent law. I leave that to the croco... este, the lawyers.

But as a citizen and consumer of this country, I register here my take on the Pfizer court case: It is pure greed.

As I said, the medicine "amlodipine besylate," sold by Pfizer here as "Norvasc," which it also sells in India as "Amlodipine," is used for the treatment of hypertension.

Every six years, we conduct a national nutrition survey, through the Nutrition Research Institute under the DOST.

The latest one showed that 22 percent of Filipino adults have hypertension. This means that millions of Filipinos need to take the medicine—rich and poor alike.

Actually, the statistics can frighten you just by looking at the incidence of poverty in this country, which incidentally boasts of having some of the most expensive drugs in the whole wide world, probably next only to the United States.

Get this, Pfizer guys: Some 15 percent of Filipinos live in extreme poverty—emphasis on the word EXTREME!

THAT means millions upon millions of breathing human beings are surviving on less than P50 a day.

They cannot afford food—much less expensive medicine, priced at 700 percent higher than in other countries.

And do you know how much more the poor Filipino must fork out to Pfizer, say, if the court grants the easy-to-get TRO?

In effect, through the TRO, Pfizer will still enjoy a monopoly on the hypertension drug for 18 more months.

In those months, Pfizer can expect to sell something like P2.39 billion.

Since the price locally is 700 percent higher than the imported version, the poor Filipinos—already sick as they are—will have been duped to the tune of P2.1 billion.

Hypertension, lest we forget, is a life threatening disease. I mean, people take medicine such as "Norvasc" of Pfizer to stay alive.

It's not as if "Norvasc" is only just like Viagra. It's not a... well, "recreational" pill!

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of March 10, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL BANKS					
Banco De Oro Univ. Bank	34.5	35	34.5	34.5	245,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	59	59.5	59	59	1,831,000
China Banking Corp.	680	685	680	680	290
Chinatrust Comm. Bank	18	18	18	18	200
Citibank Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	300
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.41	0.41	10,690,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	65	65	64	64.5	87,000
International Exch. Bank	25.5	26	25.5	25.5	4,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	37	37.5	36.5	37	754,100
Philippine National Bank	31	31	31	31	44,000
Securities Bank Corp.	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	1,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	37.5	37.5	37.5	37.5	5,000
Bank of the Phil.	34.5	34.5	34.5	34.5	10,700
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	240,000
First Metro Invest. Corp.	23.75	24	23.75	24	1,600
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	230,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	28,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2180	2190	2180	2190	420
Intangible Corp.	0.79	0.79	0.78	0.78	2,640,000

INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	45	45	44.5	44.5	2,248,500
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42	42	40	40	431,500
Manila Electric Co. A	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	59,500
Manila Electric Co. B	19.75	19.75	19	19.25	56,900
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.4	6,360,000
Petron Corp.	4.45	4.55	4.45	4.5	1,474,000
Salcom Power Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	2,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.91	0.91	0.9	0.9	380,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
CADP Group Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	19.25	19.25	19	19	85,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	35	35.5	35	35.5	189,500
Pancake House Inc.	3.65	3.7	3.65	3.7	13,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	58,000
Swill Food Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	130,000
San Miguel Corp. A	61	61.5	60.5	61.5	110,900
San Miguel Corp. B	79.5	80	79	80	32,100
Phil Toi Plus Cur & Redry	10	10	10	10	1,000
Universal Robina Corp.	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	195,000
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	550,000

CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.28	0.29	0.28	0.28	2,660,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.22	1.22	1.22	1,027,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.1	4.3	4.05	4.3	2,536,000

DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	2,000,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.08	0.075	0.075	3,400,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.7	0.7	0.52	0.54	4,120,000

HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	12,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	11,000,000
A Brown Company Inc.	337.5	342.5	337.5	340	45,810
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	150,000
Abottz Equity Ventures	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	604,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	11,000,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.46	2.46	2.44	2.44	10,016,000
Alcon Gold Res. Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	50,000
Alcon Gold Res. Corp.	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	0.0065	37,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.87	0.87	0.87	530,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	15,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	8.6	8.6	8.6	8.6	21,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	0.94	0.94	0.93	0.93	2,550,000
Bencor Holdings Corp.	3	3	3	3	245,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3	3	3	3	5,607,000
Fluvest Dev. Corp.	2.1	2.22	2.1	2.22	22,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.08	1.08	1.08	1.08	492,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	5.1	5.1	5.1	5.1	750,000
Medco Holdings	0.27	0.27	0.26	0.27	720,000
Mabuhay Holdings Corp.	0.21	0.22	0.21	0.21	640,000
Multichem Inc.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	910,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.245	0.25	25,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.5	1.5	1.5	1.5	3,110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	25,000
Sinopharm Corp.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	3,110,000
Sinopharm Corp.	218	218	214	214	25,650
Steniel Investments Corp.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	4,500,000
Unil Res. & Holdings Co.	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.13	2,110,000

PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.25	10.75	3,433,100
Belle Corp.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	770,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.95	0.95	0.95	0.95	40,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	50,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,258,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.52	1.52	1.5	1.5	147,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,490,000
Elig Realty Developers Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	110,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.45	0.45	0.44	0.45	370,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.028	0.028	0.027	0.028	4,100,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.67	0.67	0.67	0.67	100,000
Fillinvest Land Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	6,141,000
Gotesco Land Inc.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	200,000
Kurt Phil. Properties	0.215	0.22	0.21	0.215	1,630,000
Fl-Estate Land Inc.	0.46	0.46	0.46	0.46	70,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.42	6,443,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.32	0.32	11,780,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.42	0.43	0.33	0.35	19,870,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.22	0.225	0.215	0.22	4,020,000
SM Development Corp.	1.46	1.46	1.42	1.42	85,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.6	7.7	7.6	7.7	3,295,000
Univide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.125	0.13	6,290,000

SERVICE MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	11.5	11.5	11.5	11.5	22,200
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.88	0.9	0.88	0.9	360,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	815	815	810	815	39,300
Philippine Tel. Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.1	3.15	759,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1815	1815	1800	1800	64,140

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.185	0.19	5,260,000
Imperial Res.	0.013	0.013	0.013	0.013	3,000,000
Ionics Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	25,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	20,000
Musa Semiconductors Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	2,000
Philweb Corp.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	133,700,000

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Abottz Trans. Sys. Corp.	1.69	1.66	1.66	1.66	13,000
Int'l Container Term 1 Sv	12.25	12.25	12.25	12.25	310,900
Kapal Phils. Marine Inc.	0.97	0.97	0.97	0.97	500,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.28	1.3	1.28	1.3	4,000

HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.74	1.76	1.74	1.76	916,000
Manila Jockey Club	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.4	11,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	400,000

EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.9	9.1	8.9	9.1	17,000
Far Eastern University	610	610	600	600	180

DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	1.5	1.56	1.44	1.44	172,000
Paxys Inc.	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	470,000

Crown Equines Inc.	1.72	1.74	1.72	1.74	1,258,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.62	1.62	1.6	1.6	147,000
C&P Homes Inc.	0.22	0.22	0.22	0.22	1,490,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	110,000
ERA Realty Developers Inc.					



GENERATION E.

The Search for the Presidential Scholars on Entrepreneurship.



Do You Have the E Factor?



PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP LAUNCHED DURING NEGOSYO SUMMIT

Last February 23, 2006, the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) and the Entrepreneurs School of Asia (ESA) launched the GEN-E PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARSHIP ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP together with President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

While most scholarships are either based on Academic or Athletic excellence, the Gen-E Presidential Scholarship Program is focused on the individual's entrepreneurial potential. Ten (10) full-college scholarships and 100 regional partial scholarships are being offered to qualified 4th year private and public high school students. Accepted students get a scholarship to the B.S. Entrepreneurship degree of the Entrepreneurs School of Asia.



President GMA during the Launch of GEN-E Scholarships with Joey Concepcion, Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship with Entrepreneurs School of Asia founders, Joel Santos and Vivienne Tan

About the Entrepreneurs School of Asia

The School aspires to be a leader in entrepreneurship education, research, and development in the region. Established in 1999 as a British College, the School is a synergy of the best of eastern and western business education. It has pioneered the integration of entrepreneurship education within all its academic programs thus giving the institution a reputation of innovation and dynamism.

The ESA philosophy targets the holistic development of the entrepreneurial mindset and spirit. The approach to learning is practical and applied, where the focus is not just on theory but also on action learning (learning by doing). Students are provided opportunities to experience entrepreneurship on a first hand basis – taking them beyond strategy formulation and directly into new venture creation, implementation, and operation in a competitive market.

The expression the world is their classroom takes on a whole new meaning at the ESA. Students of ESA can spend a term or two in various foreign countries to learn how to do business and, when applicable, learn how to speak the language.

"In the Entrepreneurs School of Asia (ESA), entrepreneurship is not just a catch phrase...it's a way of life."
Vivienne Tan, Founder of Entrepreneurs School of Asia

About the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship

The Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) is the primary mover in championing the spirit and culture of Filipino entrepreneurship.

Its vision: *"to be the pre-eminent institution that promotes entrepreneurship countrywide- by improving education, fostering a culture of enterprise, and providing a marketplace of innovations and best practices, thereby spawning competitive Filipino entrepreneurs."*

Eight Filipino Entrepreneurs established the Philippine Center for Entrepreneurship (PCE) in 2005 through the initiative of the Presidential Consultant for Entrepreneurship, Jose Ma. "Joey" Concepcion III:

Tony Tan Caktiong (Jollibee Foods Corp).
Socorro Ramos (National Bookstore)
Atty. Felipe Gozon (GMA Network)
Dr. Rolando Hortaleza (Splash Group)
Harley Sy (SM Group)
Vivienne Tan (Entrepreneurs School of Asia)
Joselito Campos (Southeast Asia Food-UFC)
Joey Concepcion (RFM)

After the very successful Go Negosyo Summit and Expo that was attended by more than 50,000 visitors, the PCE will go on a national roadshow to promote its program.

Interested applicants are invited to attend the Parent/Student Scholarship Orientation to be held in Metro Manila and Cebu.

Please call the Scholarship Secretariat at (02)6381188 or 09178560943 to confirm your slots in the orientation.

Metro Manila

March 13, 2006, 6:30 pm,
Entrepreneurs School of Asia
Auditorium
No. 27 Calle Industria, Libis,
Quezon City

Guest Speakers:
Senator Francis "Kiko" Pangilinan
Secretary Fe Hidalgo, Department of Education

Cebu

March 14, 2006, 5:00 pm
Granada Room, Casino Español,
Cebu City

Guest Speakers:
Dr. Jay Thompson, Chairman,
Northwestern Polytechnic
University (U.S.A.)
Mr. Jay Aldegue, President,
Island Souvenirs
Mr. Joel Santos, Founder,
Entrepreneurs School of Asia

Metro Manila

March 21, 2006, 6:30 pm,
Entrepreneurs School of Asia
Auditorium
No. 27 Calle Industria, Libis,
Quezon City

Guest Speakers:
Mr. Joey Concepcion, Presidential Consultant
for Entrepreneurship
Vivienne Tan, Founder of Entrepreneurs
School of Asia

SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang
Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

Drug combo may slash heart attack deaths

By Charles E. Buban

ADDING THE blood-thinning drug clopidogrel (Plavix) to aspirin for the emergency treatment of heart attacks could save thousands of lives each year and prevent thousands of repeat heart attacks and strokes.

This according to a study presented before a conference of the American College of Cardiology and published in the health journal *The Lancet*.

Dr. Zhengming Chen of the Clinical Trial Service Unit of the Oxford University in England found that if hospitals gave clopidogrel-aspirin therapy early enough to just one million of the 10 million patients who have a heart attack around the world every year, it would prevent about 5,000 deaths and 5,000 nonfatal repeat heart attacks and strokes.

Chen said the Clopidogrel and Metoprolol in Myocardial Infarction Trial (Commit) study found

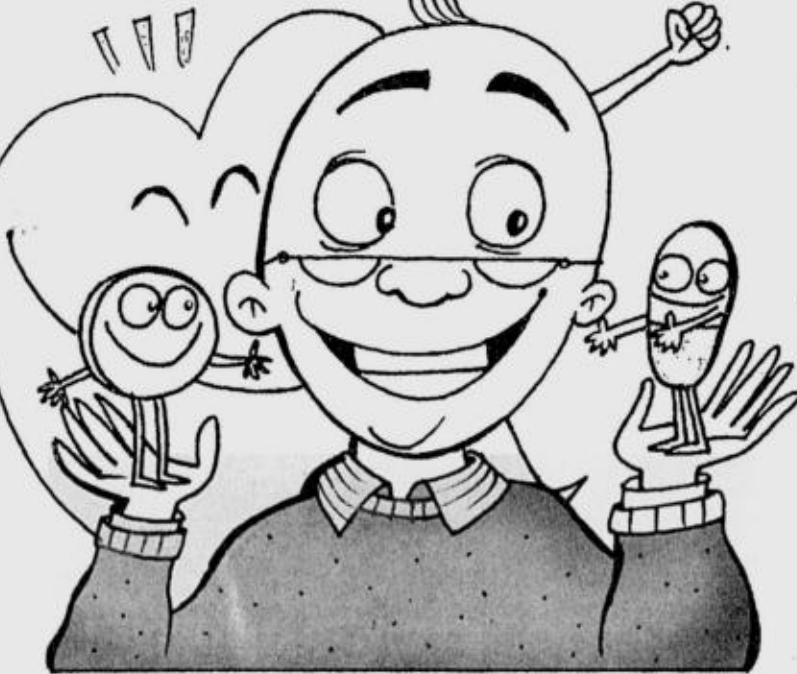
that adding clopidogrel to aspirin daily significantly reduced relative risk of death in hospitals by 7 percent and the risk of death, repeat heart attack or stroke by about 10 percent, without significant increase in serious bleeding.

The study involved nearly 46,000 patients in 1,250 hospitals throughout China. Each patient had been hospitalized within 24 hours from the onset of a suspected heart attack and all received standard medical care. Half of the patients were given clopidogrel and aspirin, while the other half were given placebo and aspirin.

Preventable diseases

Dr. Alma Casareo, medical director of Sanofi-Aventis, which markets clopidogrel in the country, said that with 10 million heart attacks occurring in the world each year, the study findings could help improve the treatment of millions of people and make an important contribution to saving lives and reducing disability.

She pointed out that although



stroke and heart attack remain the leading causes of death and disability in the Philippines, these diseases are preventable and treatable.

"To lower the risk, it is recommended that one have a regular blood pressure checkup, eat a low-fat diet, quit smoking and control alcohol intake, be physi-

cally active and take regular medication especially if one is at high risk," she said.

Clopidogrel blocks blood platelets from sticking together in clots, which can prompt heart attack or stroke. Aspirin, on the other hand, has become standard treatment for heart patients at low risk for stroke and under 75 years.

Coffee could spell heart trouble for some people

HERE'S A REAL CAFFEINE jolt: heart attacks might be a risk for coffee drinkers with a common genetic trait that makes caffeine linger in their bodies.

A study of more than 4,000 people in Costa Rica found that about half had the trait and were considered "slow caffeine metabolizers." The other half had the opposite trait, which caused their bodies to rapidly break down or metabolize caffeine, and coffee drinking in this group appeared to reduce heart attack risks.

Among slow metabolizers, those who drank two or more cups of coffee daily were at least 36 percent more likely to have a nonfatal heart attack than those who drank little or no coffee.

Even higher risks were found for coffee drinkers under 50 who were also slow metabolizers: they were up to four times more likely to have a heart attack than young slow metabolizers who drank little or no coffee.

Blocking effect

The findings, though preliminary, might explain why there have been such mixed results in previous studies investigating the effects of caffeine on the cardiovascular system, said study coauthor Ahmed El-Sohemy of

the University of Toronto.

Caffeine is thought to block the effects of a chemical that provides energy to the heart and that may help protect against tissue damage, he said.

Some previous research linked coffee consumption with an increased risk of heart disease, but other studies have suggested the opposite.

Other studies

While there is evidence to suggest caffeine can cause short-term blood pressure increases, a study last year said coffee drinking did not appear to cause long-term high blood pressure, at least in women.

The new study "clearly illustrates that one size does not fit all," El-Sohemy said. "Perhaps in the future we'll be making different [dietary] recommendations based on people's genetic makeup."

There's no easy way to know if you're a fast or slow caffeine metabolizer. Staying awake all night if you drink coffee in the afternoon does not mean you're a slow metabolizer, and a genetic test that could answer the question is used in research but is not commercially available, El-Sohemy said. AP

Norman F. Quimpo: mathematician, nationalist

IN FEBRUARY 1986, IN OUR LAST ADVANCED Calculus class, Dr. Norman Quimpo discussed the ongoing conflict, and announced that in line with university policy, classes would be cancelled, and that our semester marks would be based on our average so far. We had not yet finished our book, but this was my first hint that for Doc Quimpos, societal welfare was even more important than our shared love: math.

In September 1997, I gladly accepted Doc Quimpos' invitation to conduct a creativity workshop for students at the Ateneo de Davao University, funded by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP) to promote science and technology (S & T). I was then newly married, and I used the chance to train these kids, and with my husband, to see more of the country. Here I saw another side of Doc Quimpos: the educator who only wanted the best for the Filipino youth.

Doc Quimpos has been instrumental in creating various S & T NGOs. A founding member of Kilusan ng mga Siyentipikong Pilipino, he was also adviser for Sibol ng Agham at Teknolohiya and Scientists' action committee.

During the turbulent 1980s, as chair of Local Initiatives in Science and Technology, he helped lobby for S & T provisions in the Philippine Constitution, participated in the Anti-Nuclear Plant Campaign, and initiated appropriate technologies in the countryside.

Engineering, math

Born on Dec. 1, 1945, in Mabini, Pangasinan, Doc Quimpos graduated with a bachelor's in engineering from the Ateneo de Manila in 1967 and immediately started teaching there. He received his doctorate in mathematics in 1980, specializing in graph theory, served as department chair from 1983 to 1991, and became full professor in 1994. In 2005, he was chosen

EUREKA!

Queen N. Lee-Chua



Outstanding Senior Lay Teacher by the Ateneo Schools Parents Council.

He was actively involved in regional and national math activities. He chaired the Mathematical Sciences Division of the NRCP (which would recognize him for lifetime contributions in 2003). He served as director and secretary of the Math Society of the Philippines, organized the 1991 Conference on Graph Theory and Combinatorics and coedited its Proceedings.

He wrote technical papers, half of them with renowned theorist C. C. Chen, and reviewed articles for the German journal Zentral-

blatt für Mathematik und ihre Grenzgebiete. His textbooks are still used in Ateneo today.

I admire Doc Quimpos' willingness and ability to adapt to change. In the mid-1990s, increasing globalization made it imperative for science courses to become interdisciplinary, to shift from basic to applied and from theory to real life. Doc Quimpos realized this, and worked hard to establish our BS Applied Math program, major in Computational Science.

Yoga, taiji chuan

Once, in the 1980s, I chanced upon Doc Quimpos in the faculty lounge, his hands shaking. I asked him what happened, and he answered ruefully, "I need to stop drinking coffee. My heart palpitates and my hands shake. I also need to relax."

Sure enough, he stopped his daily dose of caffeine, turned to yoga and taiji chuan, and became so successful in the latter that he even joined national competitions.

When my students insist that change is impossible since they are already "old," I tell them about Doc Quimpos, and they stop complaining.

The scholarly and succinct Doc Quimpos is married to garrulous and lively Bernardita "Bernie" Azurin; they have a son, Leon Ibarra. In what I prefer to believe is not an altogether serendipitous twist of fate, Leon became my student in Calculus II, while my brother Garrick became Doc Quimpos' student in College Algebra.

I enjoyed having Leon in my class, as much as my brother did in Doc Quimpos' section. Bernie has become my good friend, this time in psychology. To top it off, my son Scott says he wants to meet his same-age peer, their bright granddaughter Meggy, who loves math and speaks Mandarin well.

Doc Quimpos, I am honored to call you mentor, colleague and friend. God bless you and your loved ones.

Mercury poisoning

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

WE RECENTLY READ ABOUT the near-tragic mercury mass poisoning in one school in Metro Manila. Mercury is a toxic or highly poisonous metal that can cause serious damage to the brain, nerves and practically all organs of the body. I recall that as children, we would break thermometers and get the mercury out of the glass and spread it on coins to give them a silvery shine. Little did we realize that such practice was dangerous.

Mercury exists in several forms: metallic mercury, inorganic and organic mercury compounds.

Metallic mercury is a shiny, silver-white metal and is liquid at room temperature. It is used in thermometers, blood pressure apparatus, fluorescent light bulbs and some electrical switches. It breaks into smaller droplets when dropped and can go through small cracks or become attached to certain materials.

At room temperature, exposed elemental mercury can evaporate to become an invisible, odorless highly toxic vapor. At higher temperatures, these concentrations increase. Very small amounts, even just a few drops, of elemental mercury can raise air concentrations to harmful levels particularly in poorly ventilated areas.

Inhaling elemental mercury vapors can produce severe lung, gastrointestinal and nervous

system damage. Because it is odorless, people won't even know that they're being poisoned. This happens not infrequently in school laboratories such as what happened recently.

Fillings for cavities

Dental fillings can also be a potential source of mercury poisoning. Some dentists still use mercury amalgams in fillings for cavities and other dental procedures. Although little amount is used in each individual cavity, the total amount may reach toxic levels if one has a lot of cavities that need to be filled.

Inorganic mercury compounds are generally white powder or crystals. They can be found in fungicides, antiseptics or disinfectants, lightening and freckle creams, as well as some traditional medicines. Check out the list of ingredients when you buy these products, and I recommend you avoid them.

Organic mercury compounds, such as methylmercury, are formed when mercury combines with carbon through the action of some bacteria found in sea water. Humans can develop methylmercury poisoning by eating contaminated fish and shellfish.

Symptoms

Signs and symptoms of mercury poisoning can be subtle and attributed to something else. It may present as irritability, restlessness, exaggerated re-

sponse to stimulation, impaired memory, drowsiness, numbness and tingling of hands, feet, fingers, toes or lips, muscle weakness progressing to paralysis, tremors or trembling of hands, feet, lips, eyelids or tongue.

Anyone who has concerns about mercury exposure should consult a doctor immediately. The amount of mercury may be measured in the blood, urine, finger and toenails and hair. Over time, the body can rid itself of some mercury but supportive treatment has to be given.

What to do

Accidental spilling of metallic mercury is a fairly common occurrence in many households. If you spill mercury equal to or less than that contained in a thermometer, do the following:

- Isolate the area.
- Cool down the temperature.
- Open windows.
- Don't let anyone walk through the mercury.
- Don't vacuum.
- Don't allow children to assist you.

If a spill occurs on carpet, curtains, upholstery or other similar surfaces, experts recommend that these contaminated items be thrown away.

If the spilled mercury is equal to or more than one pound (roughly two tablespoons), one should do above procedures and call in mercury disposal experts from the toxicology departments of institutions such as the UP-PGH and the Department of Science and Technology.

Polystyrene goes green

POLYSTYRENE PRODUCTS ARE everywhere though it may not be immediately obvious. They are used as packing material in shipping, they are the insulated cups for hot beverages, and they are even coolers for sodas and ice cream when traveling.

Perhaps most recognizably, they are the utensils and food containers that come with takeout or delivery orders, and even leftovers from a meal from restaurants.

While items like the packing materials and coolers are often reused, those like food containers and utensils are often treated as disposables and thus end up in landfills almost as soon as they are used. They may not be the main reason garbage dumps are so large, but they contribute to the size, and take thousands of years to break down.

One problem facing many countries today is that there isn't enough space left on the planet to accommodate both the increasing population and the need for more landfills. Solid waste management has been a topic of much interest in recent years because of this, and the public is encouraged to reuse and recycle non-biodegradable materials.

Breaking down material

A group of European researchers has decided to take a different approach to the matter.

According to the Feb. 15 online edition of the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*, researchers led by Kevin O'Connor from the University College Dublin School of Biomolecular & Biomedical Science worked with scientists at the University of Hamburg and developed a method by which polystyrene products could be converted into



Massie Santos Ballon

a biodegradable plastic.

The two-step process starts with pyrolysis: heating up the polystyrene to break it down into styrene oil. Styrene is a petroleum byproduct that is the main ingredient for manufacturing polystyrene. Supposedly, its chemical structure resembles the one which is responsible for giving cinnamon its flavor.

Styrene oil happens to be a favorite food of the bacteria *Pseudomonas putida* CA-3, which, in the second step of the process, convert the styrene into polyhydroxyalkanoate (PHA), a flexible, heat-resistant and biodegradable plastic.

"The plastic can be easily retrieved from the bacterium by using a mild detergent to break open

the cells," Dr. O'Connor noted in a press release from University College Dublin. "It can then be used to make plastic bottles or be used in medicine as special biodegradable plastic in the body."

It should be pointed out that this is neither a large-scale nor a high-yielding process.

In one 48-hour experiment, the researchers worked with very small quantities, collecting 1.6g of PHA and 2.8g of biomass from 16g of styrene oil.

O'Connor et al. note that they get about 80 percent styrene oil from the polystyrene, and about 10 percent of that is converted into PHA by the bacteria, while the rest of the material becomes "biomass."

Not cost-effective

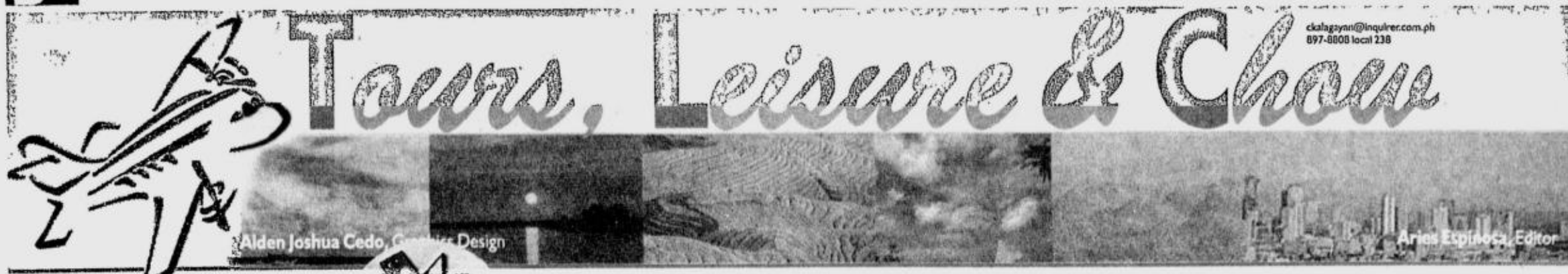
Obviously this is not a very efficient process; naysayers might even argue that given this study, it isn't cost-effective to make polystyrene biodegradable since so much of it is needed to end up with a decent amount of environment-friendly plastic.

Those against investing in such a process could point out that not only do other projects need funding, but that the polystyrene harms no one in the landfills anyway.

But with the development of technology, the process might later on be conducted on a larger and more efficient scale, significantly reducing landfill masses and making land available for other uses.

The really good news is that this is a step toward recycling petroleum byproducts into biodegradable materials. And this conversion fits right into a world where alternative energy sources to oil are the next big thing.





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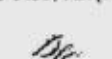
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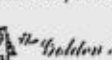
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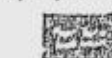
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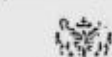
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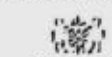
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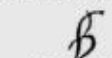
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Summer starts at Dusit Hotel

SUMMER PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES to spend quality time with loved ones. It is the perfect moment to bond with friends and family. Dusit Hotel Nikko provides the ideal venue for you to do just that with their wide array of food offerings inspired by summer. Savor the dishes best enjoyed during the season.

Dine at Benjarong from March 15 to 31 and sample the Chaopraya Promotion for the ultimate in Thai gastronomy.

What better way to celebrate your graduation than with your peers. Enjoy the "family style" set menu prepared specially by Fiesta San Miguel's very own chef Willy for those celebrating their graduation this March. Each set menu comes with a complimentary 0.3 litre mug of fresh brewed beer for the graduates.

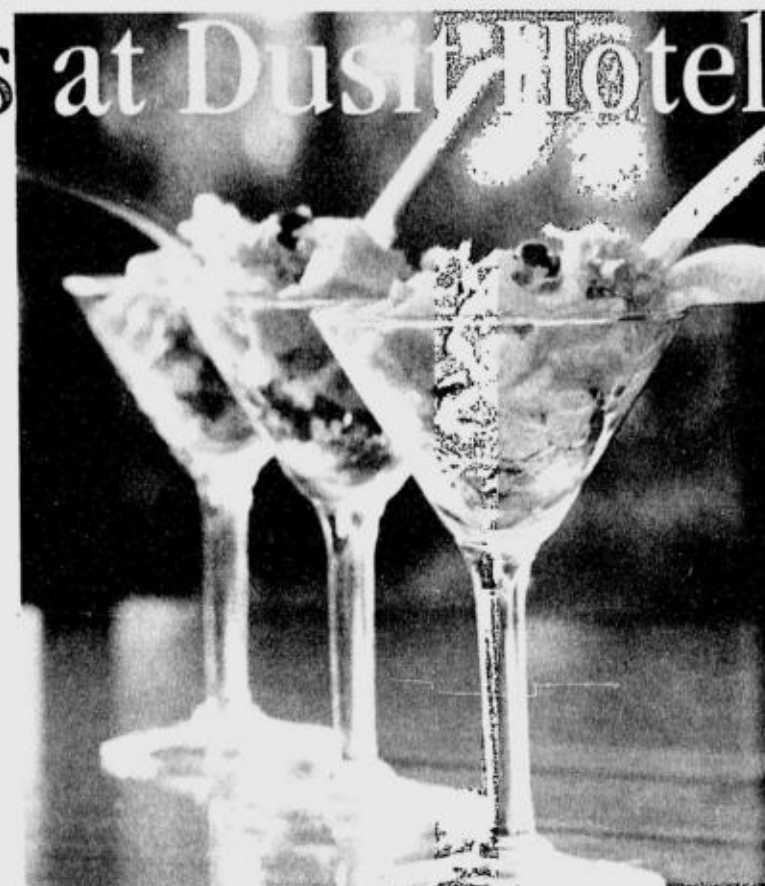
"Lobster" is on the spotlight every Thursday and Friday of March and April at Dusit Hotel Nikko's The

Café together with other bounties of the sea. Priced at P950++ per adult and P475++ for children below twelve (12) years old.

Benkay, features set menus for this summer. Japanese chef Tomiyama creates the 'Peach Seasonal Festival' (Momo No Setsuku) this March. Composed of an appetizer, sliced raw fish, soup and dessert. The set menu is priced at P1,800++ per person.

Savor the healthy cuisine of Vietnam this March with your loved ones as Thien Duong offers set menus good for four persons that comes with a refreshing round of Vietnamese iced tea. Thien Duong Vietnamese restaurant is located at the ground level of Dusit Hotel Nikko.

Spend summer and discover the many facets of the season only at Dusit Hotel Nikko. For inquiries and dining reservations, call 867-3333.



Romance in March

LOOKING FOR A GREAT WAY to spend the month of March? Let City Garden Hotel Makati takes you on a grand romantic day. First, check-in in one of its guest rooms that come for as low as P1,450 per person on twin-sharing basis. This already includes a sumptuous buffet breakfast at the Le Jardin.

After check-in, try out their fully-equipped gym or take a dip in their open-air swimming pool at the Rooftop Deck. Or better yet, you may opt to explore nearby Powerplant Mall at Rockwell or Glorietta Mall for some shopping.

After a day of fun activities, book a massage or facial treat-

ment for two at Body & Face by Mendez for as low as P700 per person or try its Relaxing Retreat Package for as low as P1,000 per person, for that much needed rejuvenation.

For dinner, do not miss the Rooftop Bar & Grill. Offering sumptuous grilled specialties and appetizers, it has the best view of the metropolis at night. A romantic end to a great day.

For more details, City Garden Hotel Makati is located in Makati's restaurant strip at 7870 Makati Avenue corner Kalayaan Avenue, Makati City. For reservations or inquiries, please call (02) 899-1111, or its domestic toll free number 1-800-101-GARDEN (427336),

or at www.citygardenhotels.com.



Graduates march to The Bellevue

CONGRATULATIONS, GRADUATES! Southern Metro Manila's premier social and business hub pays tribute to the graduates with its 5+1 promo. For every group of six taking the sumptuous buffet at Café D'Asie, one will be free of charge. What a great reward for a job well done. March away to The Bellevue, graduates. An Irish feast in celebration of St. Patrick's Day happens at The Bellevue Manila, southern Metro Manila's food Mecca. On March 17 and 18, enjoy a host of Irish favorites such as Cream of Irish Leek Soup, Thackeray's Tiger Prawns, Trimbletown Roast Sirloin, Five Spice Crusted Salmon on Sauerkraut with Irish Bacon and Cranberry Seeds, Irish Loin of Pork with Lemon and Herbs and an assortment of Irish desserts. Available during the lunch and dinner buffets at Café D'Asie. Plus, diners in green get special gifts. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Manila Pavilion Hotel's graduation tribute

GRADUATIONS, THOUGH SIGNIFYING an end, are such happy milestones. This is why Manila Pavilion Hotel fetes the graduates - and their families - with a deliciously rewarding meal.

At the Rotisserie, the Graduation Set Menu is concocted especially for the Class of 2006. Menu consists of Prawns Caesar Salad,

Hats Off Onion Soup, Grilled imported Beef Tenderloin in Green Peppercorn sauce with Croquette Potatoes, Caramelized Mango Chiboustes with Ice Cream, and pralines, along with a cup of brewed coffee or tea.

After completing an academic journey with success, it's fit to let the graduates indulge. Treat

them to the Rotisserie's Graduation Set Menu available during lunch and dinner from Mondays to Fridays, dinner only on Saturdays until March 31, for P1,350++ per person.

For reservations and inquiries, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at (02) 526-1212 extension 2505.



A gastronomic tour with Waterfront Cebu

JUST LIKE A VISIT TO EUROPE, China or a tour around the world, Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino's (WCCHC) Gourmet Walk assures you that every stop will be a culinary experience. With the Gourmet Passport, WCCHC promises you a trip you just can't say no to. Until June 30, simply visit any of the Hotel owned restaurants - Café Uno, Café Fortuna, Tin Gow, Mizu, Madeleine, Lobby Lounge or Treff Bar - and ask for a Gourmet Passport. For each culinary experience worth P1500 single receipt or two accumulated receipts at Madeleine, your get a stamp on your

Gourmet Passport. Upon accumulation of 6 stamps from 6 different outlets, you can spend the night in a Standard/Superior Room for free! But if you accumulate 8 stamps instead, then an overnight stay in a deluxe suite is in store for you. The food and ambience alone is worth every peso, but with the Gourmet Passport, it's worth so much more. So visit the Gourmet Walk today and stamp away.

For inquiries and reservations, you may call (02) 687 0888 or (032) 232-6888 loc. 8201. You can also visit the website at www.waterfronthotels.net

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GARDEN PLAZA HOTEL AND Suites is your home close to your home. Attentive service, delivered by warm and courteous staff is the trademark of this hotel.

Located beside the historic Paco Park, Garden Plaza Hotel is walking distance from the shopping and entertainment district, scenic parks and the tourist belt. The 125 rooms hotel are spacious, comfortable, well furnished, and with complete amenities to provide maximum comfort to all guests. Garden Plaza's Deluxe rooms and Suites are all equipped with kitchenettes - a favorite among long staying guests and families who

opt for home cooking. The hotel, has six function rooms that are being used by corporate and government clients for business meetings, conferences, seminars and workshops. It is also the house of the famous Old Swiss Inn Restaurant - a top rated casual dining restaurant famous since 1940's for authentic European cuisine. Aside from these, guests can unwind and belt out their repertoire at the Isidro's Karaoke Bar located at the ground floor of the hotel.

For inquiries, call The Garden Plaza Hotel and Suites at 522-4835 to 39 or e-mail at gplazahotel@yahoo.com.

People, Events & Products



XANGO IS MOST OUTSTANDING

NUTRITIONAL BEVERAGE
Mangosteen supplement Xango Juice Drink was named 'Most Outstanding Nutritional Beverage' at the 2005 Philippine Quality Awards for Business Excellence recently held at Hotel Intercontinental Manila in Makati City. Receiving the award is Pilar Recto (right), one of the top independent distributors of Xango. Flanking her are Dean Antonio Tupaz, chair of the Philippine Quality Awards for Business Excellence (left); and Rep. Abdulgani Salapuddin (center).

Phil-Korean travel event

THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) IS STAGING the first-ever Philippine-Korean Travel Exchange (Philkotex) in Manila on March 16. Taking advantage of the Korean buyers' presence in the country, the DOT will host two nights/three days optional tours from March 17 to 19 to popular destinations including Manila and environs, Subic/Clark, Palawan, Cebu/Bohol, Boracay, and Davao. Philippine sellers interested in participating in the Philkotex should immediately contact Mavic Sevilla and Andy Pagaduan of Team Korea at tel. nos. 02-5257320 and 525-9318 loc. 293, 240 and 270.

Centering Prayer retreat

CENTERING PRAYER IS A METHOD DESIGNED TO facilitate the development of Contemplative Prayer by preparing our faculties to receive this gift. Contemplative Outreach Philippines will be holding a 3-day live-in Introductory Retreat to Centering Prayer on March 17, 18, 19, at the St. Joseph Marella Retreat House in Tagaytay City. For inquiries and further information interested persons may call Anna Marie at 842-0201 or Jasmin at 843-8830.

13th Consal

THE 13TH GENERAL CONFERENCE of the Congress of Southeast Asian Librarians (Consal) will be held on March 25 to 30, at the Edsa Shangri-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. The theme of the conference is 'Consal at the crossroads: Challenges for greater regional cooperation'. For more inquiries call Rose at (632) 927-2044, Lily at (632) 929-2180 or e-mail: consal.13@gmail.com

IFAWPCA grand convention

ON MARCH 14 TO 18, THE INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION of Asian and Western Pacific Contractors Association (IFAWPCA) shall hold its 35th grand convention at the Hotel Philippine Plaza. For information and details about the 35th IFAWPCA convention and Konstruktura Asya 2006, call Global-Link Marketing and Management Services Inc, the Event for both events, at tel. nos. 750-8588, 887-1304 or e-mail: jing.lagadaon@globalink.com.



Pedro Eduardo "Pete" Lagman, Jr.

(February 14, 1919 - March 9, 2006)

Retired Assistant City Prosecutor of Caloocan City

joined his Creator and martyr sons, **Hermon** and **Popoy**,
at 87 years of age.

He is survived by his wife **Cecilia**; children **Edcel** and **Cielo**,
Nilda and **Silverio, Jr.**, and **Evita** and **Tirso**; daughter-in-law **Bobbie**;
grandchildren **Krisel** and **Ramon**, **Larah**, **Edcel, Jr.** and **Ivy**, **Nikos**,
Karlo and **Elizabeth**, **Dante** and **Chona**, **Marco**, **Iskra** and **Ernelle**,
Karina, **Celia**, **Hermon**, **Andrei**, **Tristan**, **Trisha**, **Ryan**, and **Leanne**;
great grandchildren; brothers **Rosette** and **Ernesto**;
sisters **Perla** and **Efigenia**; nephews and nieces.

His bereaved family, relatives and friends request pious readers
to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the Premier II, Loyola Memorial Chapels,
Guadalupe, Makati City.

Interment will be on Monday, March 13, 2006,
at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City after the 8:00 a.m. Mass
at the Loyola Memorial Chapels.

ANTONIO MIGUEL D. SANTOS "IKE"

*Peacefully joined our Lord on
March 8, 2006 at the age of 50.*

His loving father Miguel Borja Santos;
children Aileen, Paolo, Chesca, Maurice,
& Nikka; together with brother Manuel, sisters
Charito, Tessie, Alice & Lulu; relatives, and friends,
request the pious readers to pray for the eternal
repose of his soul

His remains lie in state at Our Lady of Grace Columbarry
Haven & Chapel of Repose, 2nd Floor Bishop Benjamin
de Jesus Chapel, back of Our Lady of Grace Church,
11th Ave., Caloocan City.

Interment will be on March 12, 2006 at Holy Cross
Memorial Park, 3:00 p.m.

DEATH NOTICE

Dr. Stephen G. Reyes

Died on March 1, 2006.

His body lies at St. Therese of Child Jesus Chapel,
UP College, Los Baños, Laguna.

Interment will be on March 12, 2006
at Los Baños Memorial Cemetery.

Maria Evangelista Cua

March 25, 1919 - March 08, 2006

Her bereaved children:

Cong. Junie & Mary Cua

Lai Tung & Gue Hwa

Tessie (†) & Noy Coting

Luz & Manny Brillo

Jimmy (†) & Edna Cua

July & Rosanna Evangelista

Belen & Frisco Ang

Benjie & Pat Cua

Brother, grandchildren, great grandchildren, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends
request the pious readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Inc. Chapel Superior, G. Araneta, Quezon
City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 12, 2006 at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery,
Pasig City after the 8:30 a.m. service.

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comes to
the
Father
except
through
Me."
John 14:6*

Our Dearly Beloved

"JOJO"

GLENN JORDAN CARLOS C. SYDIONGCO

*Peacefully joined his Creator on March 8, 2006
at the age of 47.*

His bereaved beloved wife Anna Flora "Nene"; children Jordana Mae &
Jan Charade; sisters: Joji & Beboy, Jinjin & Sunny Boy; brothers: Junjun &
Marilyn, Jovy & Marife, Jansy & Vicki; nieces & nephews: Nicole, Aizza,
Becca, Maxine, Margaux, Claudine, Kristine, Samantha & Jasmine, Ginno,
G Boy, Marc Seth & Justin; grandchild Hugo Francis; Tatay Intoy & Mommy
Conching, aunts, uncles, cousins, sisters-in-law, brothers-in-law relatives and
friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at his residence, B6 L6 Phase 3,
Area F, V&G Subd., Tacloban City.

Interment will be announced later. He will be interred at the
Alangalang Catholic Cemetery.

BUSINESS

PCCI calls on gov't to temper peso movement

Too strong currency could hurt local exports, business group says

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE PHILIPPINE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY yesterday asked the government to control the fluctuations in foreign exchange rates to avoid "dislocations in the economy."

PCCI president Donald G. Dee said there was a need to moderate the fluctuation of the currency to avoid speculation and serious impact on the viability and competitiveness of our exporters.

PCCI's members number to some 20,000 nationwide, including small and medium enterprises, many of which are engaged in the export of various products.

Dee said members expressed mixed reactions on the rapid appreciation of the peso over the last two and a half months, where it had substantially strengthened by 8 percent.

The peso was valued at 51.40 to the dollar as of the end of trading on March 9.

Dee said the trend in the foreign exchange rate, along with the continued gains in the stock market and actual investments coming into the country, showed that business confidence in the country has been restored.

"An appreciating peso certainly will reduce our interest expense and oil bills," he said. "(But) it also has the negative effect of making our exports uncompetitive, which ultimately might impact on our ability to maintain present jobs in the economy much less increase in creating jobs."

"We also must consider the effects of a strong peso on the families of our over-



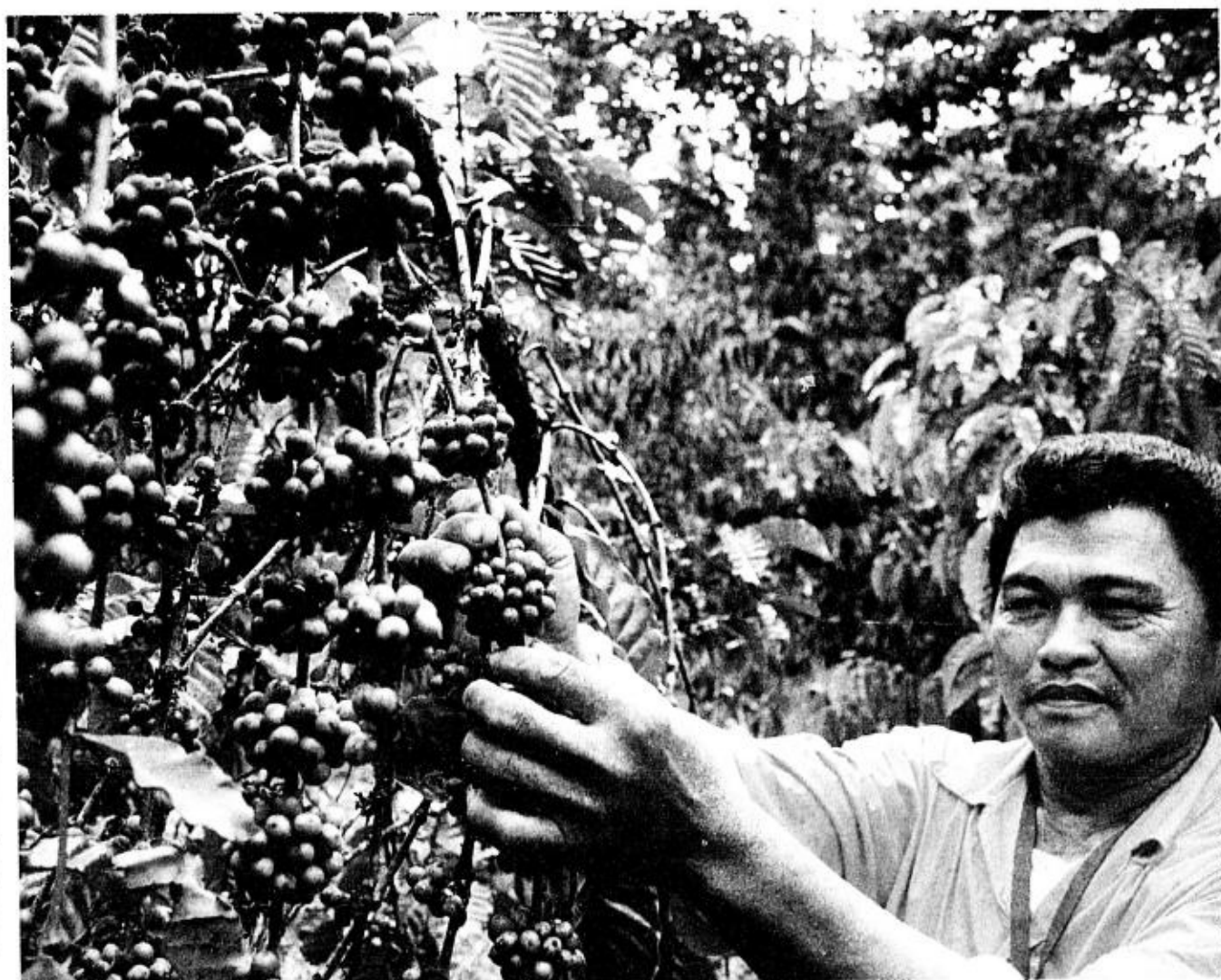
DEE

seas contract workers who now would receive less peso for the same dollar income remitted," Dee added.

He said PCCI was calling for the government to adopt policies that would moderate changes in the exchange rate and assist exporters in maintaining their viability and competitiveness.

"(The government could also) make available rediscounting windows, give incentives to modernize facilities to increase productivity, improve infrastructure to reduce transport costs, and other measures to mitigate the revenue losses of exporters," Dee said.

He said further that government intervention was needed to achieve economic stability and to further enhance economic growth and development.



Nestlé, maker of Nescafe coffee, said global demand for coffee beans has been increasing, but that supply in the country has dwindled over the years. It is introducing measures to help farmers increase productivity, such as free training workshops in Magdum, Tagum City.

DENNIS JAY SANTOS/PI MINDANAO BUREAU

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DA expects rise in abaca exports

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE AGRICULTURE DEPARTMENT expects a boost in abaca exports this year due to the discovery of new applications for the product.

Philippine abaca pulp is now being used for composite panels of luxury cars—other than as filter and food casings—which should enhance the demand for the fiber, according to exporter Newtech Pulp Inc. president Alberto Fenix in an interview.

"There is enough room for growth of between 5 to 10 percent this year," Fenix said.

Automakers from Germany have approved the use of Philippine abaca fiber.

The Fiber Industry Development Authority (Fida), an attached agency of the DA, said that one of these car manufacturers was the Daimler-Chrysler Group, which recognized the Philippine abaca due to its high elastic properties.

The Philippines is the world's only exporter and main supplier

of abaca pulp that has been used to manufacture security and or currency papers, cigarette filters, meat and tea casings, medical materials and other high grade non-woven materials, the Fida said in a report.

Fenix noted, however, that there was not enough abaca to supply the market.

The abaca industry has yet to recover from diseases as there were not enough funds from the government to buy insecticides.

Fida Administrator Cecilia Gloria Soriano said the industry's production has not hit a high of 1 to 2 million metric tons a year due to this problem.

"The government needs to solve this problem with the private sector," she said.

Abaca fiber production last year rose by only 2 percent.

"There is a consistent growing demand especially for our abaca pulp, but the local supply has not been sufficient," said an official from another exporter Isarog Pulp and Paper Inc.

LBP opens P6-B loan facility for local gov't

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE LAND BANK OF THE PHILIPPINES will offer over P6 billion in funds to support local government units' basic infrastructure spending for the year.

The first facility is a P1-billion credit window jointly financed with Germany-based multilateral lender Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW) and the other, a \$100-million (P5 billion) financing package supported by the World Bank.

In a press statement yesterday, Landbank acting president Gilda Pico said these new financing programs were aimed at addressing the financing requirements of LGUs nationwide, which the government bank was nurturing as its development partners.

"We continue to forge a stronger partnership with the LGU sector because we recognize its vital role in countryside development, particularly in delivering basic services to the public," Pico said.

The KfW-assisted program, dubbed as the LGU Investment Program (LIP), allows LGUs to avail themselves of loans for de-

velopmental projects, such as farm-to-market roads and bridges, ports, sanitation and flood control system, water supply, public markets and bus terminals.

Other projects qualified for financing include rehabilitation of public facilities like hospitals, schools and parks.

Another financing option was the World Bank-financed Support for Strategic Local Development Investment (S2LDI), aimed at improving the living conditions, public health standards and urban environment of participating LGUs through upgraded and improved urban infrastructure and services.

Specifically, the S2LDI will address the requirements of LGUs for the construction, upgrading and rehabilitation of basic urban and rural infrastructure facilities in support to the national government's Medium Term Philippine Development Plan.

Projects eligible for S2LDI financing include water supply, power production and distribution, solid waste management facilities including the construction of sanitary landfill and water treatment.

PROPERTY

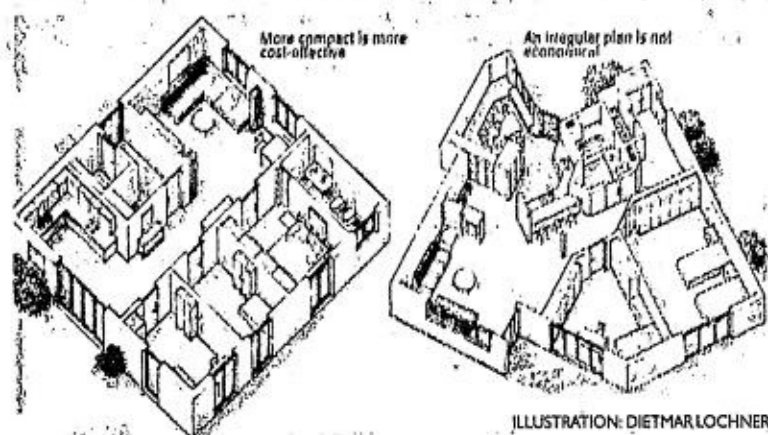


ILLUSTRATION: DIETMAR LOCHNER

Cost effectiveness of green buildings

ONE MAJOR REASON GREEN BUILDINGS are not easily accepted by many people is the widespread misconception that they cost more to build than conventional construction. On the contrary, new data indicate that up-front costs for green buildings may be more than offset by long-term savings. Given a specific project budget cost, front-loaded design will maximize the benefits of green planning and design, to ensure that green issues are addressed in the initial stages of a project.

Green buildings can be cost-effective when ecologically-sound principles are applied. The basic principle in green buildings that directly affects the cost of construction is the restraint in the use of all types of resources like labor, materials and energy use.

Economic benefits

A green building may cost more up front, but it saves through lower operating costs over the life of the building. Through a process called the

life cycle cost analysis, the appropriate up-front costs are determined. A basic concern of this system that directly relates to green buildings is the concept that the longer a product or material lasts before replacement, the better it is in environmental and economic terms. Other concerns are the use of renewable materials and the recycling and reuse of materials.

GREEN ARCHITRENDS



Amado de Jesus

These cost savings can be realized only when the concept is adopted at the initial stage of a project and with the assistance and cooperation of all the players involved. The whole construction team should approach the project as one integrated system rather than a series of separate systems.

Even with tight budgets, many green building features can be incorporated with minimal up-front costs to yield considerable future savings.

• **Site selection.** Starting with the site, keeping the cost of the land down is not only environmentally sound but is also an economic imperative. This is in keeping with the basic rule of green design, which is to reduce the amount of land needed to build a house. Another basic rule is by building houses in clusters or closer together to preserve more open spaces. These measures reduce the impact of the buildings on the environment. They are also an economic necessity.

• **Design requirements.** The next important step is to finalize the design requirements of a house. At this stage, it is not only the budget that is clearly defined, but also the most essential parts of the house—the parts that are definitely needed, not merely optional requirements. Other non-essential or unnecessary features have to be left out. It is also important at this stage to develop a budget that includes green features.

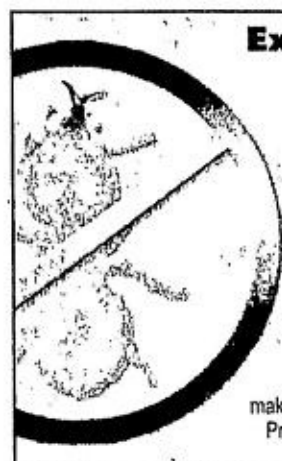
• **Interior space planning.** Cost reductions can also be done through the effective use of space within a house. For example, stairwells can be integrated into the living room instead of allocating an area specifically for the stairwell. The foyer or entrance halls can be greatly reduced or eliminated altogether and integrated with other common areas of the house. An open-type kitchen can be designed with a breakfast nook and a counter opening up to the living-room area that is also characterized by open planning, thus eliminating the need for expensive partitions, doors, jambs, painting, etc.

• **Renovations and additions.** By anticipating future additions and renovations, it will be helpful to identify opportunities for future remodeling to save the owners expensive renovations to reconfigure spaces. Technical provisions can also be made to accommodate structural, electrical and plumbing needs in the future.

For example, adding concrete columns to carry an upper floor inside an existing house can be a very stressful especially if the workers are not as careful and sensitive to the homeowners' needs for cleanliness and privacy.

If possible changes are not planned or anticipated, the house could end up with awkward roof configurations that eventually leak; old bathrooms that are "trapped" inside living rooms with no direct ventilation to the exterior; a kitchen with no direct exhaust, thereby causing dangerous smoke and possible LPG gas buildup inside the house; adding a room above the septic tank especially if it is going to be an enclosed room, which is a big health risk due to possible leakage of toxic gas. There are many renovation horror stories that we are famil-

A GREEN house can be cost-effective if the plan is kept simple and compact with few fixed interior walls. This makes it flexible and will cost less to build.



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FORBES TOWN CENTER Global City's longest golf course views

FOLLOWING THE SUCCESS OF EAST-wood City, the archetypal "live-work-play" enclave in Quezon City, premier residential property developer Megaworld Corp. is into another ambitious project in a strategic metropolitan location: the Forbes Town Center at the Bonifacio Global City in Taguig. Tagged as the country's newest business district, the Global City makes an excellent backdrop for Megaworld's increasing efforts to reinvent the urban landscape.

A P15-billion, five-hectare joint venture of Megaworld and Bonifacio West Development Corp., Forbes Town Center borders the Manila Golf and Country Club, and is within a stone's throw of the Manila Polo Club and Forbes Park—all icons of upper-crust living. Forbes Town Center is the only project in the Global City that offers the longest stretch—almost half a kilometer—of superb golf course views.

2 residential sections

Forbes Town Center is divided into two residential sections. The first is made up of the Bellagio towers—five in all—that provide front-row views of the Manila Golf course; the second comprises the seven buildings of the Forbeswood residences. The condominium homes at the six-building Forbeswood Heights overlook a 5,500-square-meter central park that teems with play amenities. Meanwhile, Forbeswood Parklane, the recent-

ly launched seventh tower, is just across from the Forbes Town Park and Lagoon.

In addition to luxury condos, Forbes Town Center is home to a high-end retail strip called Forbes Town Road. Inspired by Singapore's Bugis Junction, Forbes Town Road now hosts McDonald's and UCC Coffee as its anchor establishments. These are expected to grow to more than a hundred casual and fine-dining restaurants and haute couture shops in a few years.

Bellagio, Forbeswood

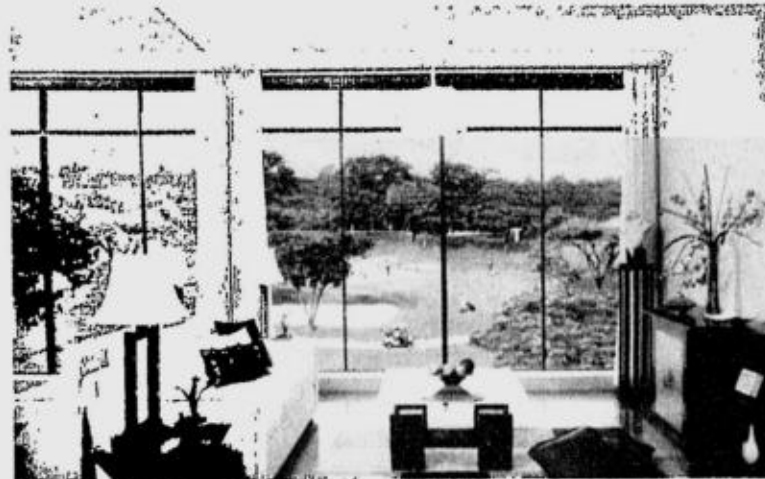
Megaworld's Bellagio and Forbeswood homes are at the heart of the Forbes Town Center's trend-setting urban lifestyle.

Of the five Bellagio towers fronting the golf course, one—the 38-story Bellagio I—is structurally complete. Bellagio I has a 300-plus mix of executive studios to four-bedroom suites in two separate wings. Its play deck offers views of the greens, as well as a horizon-edged swimming pool, children's pool and playground, gym, male and female saunas and landscaped gardens.

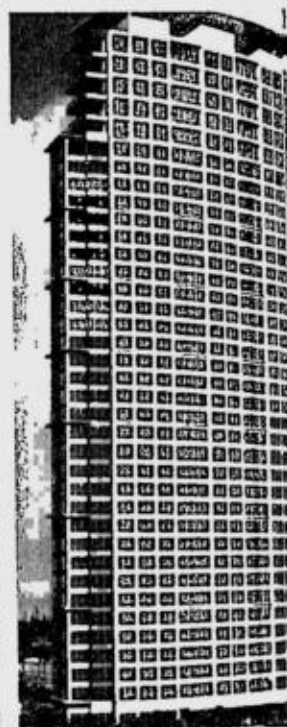
A second tower, the 40-story Bellagio II, is currently in the middle of excavation works. Its homes consist of loft-type and executive studios as well as one- and two-bedroom suites. A lobby-cum-lounge, which provides a life-size view of the fairways, is located at the upper ground level, along with an array of amenities for games and sports. The lobby



ARTIST'S rendering of the Forbeswood Parklane grand lobby



THE LAVISH interiors of a Bellagio home



ARCHITECT'S impression of The Bellagio I

hosts a gym, Roman spa, business center, function room and day care center. Outside, at the same level, is a swimming pool complex with a horizon-edged adult pool with in-water lounge, a child-friendly pool and an outdoor spa.

Meanwhile, three more towers are in the pipeline to complete the Bellagio series.

The Forbes Town Center's best-selling project is Forbeswood Heights, with six buildings. Now sold out, it features executive studios to one-bedroom suites encircling a 5,500-square-meter central park. Its resort-style amenities include a swimming pool complex, sunbathing lounge, multipurpose hall, gym, jogging trail, tennis court, mini-putting green and children's playground.

Forbeswood Heights' Agoho, Bauhinia and Cambridge towers are scheduled for delivery by June 2006; Dorchester, Evergreen and Florida, by June 2007.

New Forbeswood phase

For those who missed the opportunity to invest in a home at Forbeswood Heights, Megaworld has come up with an immediate follow-up: Forbeswood Parklane. Like its predecessors, Forbeswood Parklane offers a winning formula that combines posh accommodations with resort-style play amenities and a generous array of lifestyle conveniences.

The project makes a bold, powerful statement with a contemporary façade and a grand lobby that boasts a high-vaulted ceiling, granite flooring and elegant furnishings. Five high-speed elevators, multilevel parking and 24-hour security are provided with the homeowners' interests in mind. The executive studios to two-bedroom suites, 594 in all, continue the luxurious tone. Their floor-to-ceiling glass windows frame intimate views of the Forbes Town Park and Lagoon at the foot of the building. This nature park is a refreshing getaway with its lush pocket gardens, landscaped greenery, paved pathways and a centerpiece lagoon.

First-rate leisure options wait at the fifth-level playground. Among the indoor amenities are a health club with a jacuzzi and massage and sauna rooms and a day care center with a play area and activity-reading room. For those working from home, there is a business center with a lounge, a conference room

with a waiting area and two function rooms. Outdoor fun areas include a horizon-edged adult swimming pool and children's wading pool as well as a spa.

Forbeswood Parklane is nestled atop an exclusive shoppers' paradise. Just a quick elevator ride away is a ground-level retail arcade lined with trendy shops and stores. And a few strides away across the park is Forbes Town Road, the neighborhood's leisure and entertainment hub.

Forbes Town Road

From the Global City's Burgos Circle, Forbes Town Road winds its way across the Forbes Town Center, melding chic restaurants, cafés and designer boutiques with trees and pocket greenery. McDonald's and UCC Coffee are already doing business here as anchor outlets. In the next few years, it will ratchet up its drawing power even more as it opens its doors to more than a hundred retail outlets.

Forbes Town Road is modeled on Singapore's Bugis Junction, a vibrant shopping and entertainment hub of four-story shophouses combined with a retail plaza. But unlike Bugis Junction's glass-covered, air-conditioned streetscape, Forbes Town Road features a relaxed open-air setting.

World-class infrastructure

Those who will live and work at Forbes Town Center will benefit from the Global City's modern infrastructure. Electricity and treated drinking water flow continuously, and gas is distributed safely through an underground piping system. There is also an integrated 48-core single mode fiber optic cable network that supports a wide range of telephone, video and data applications. To preserve the city's cosmopolitan appeal, all these utilities have been laid underground.

With the country's largest private underground drainage detention structure at its service, the city hardly experiences any flooding. Meanwhile, wastewater is treated at an environment-friendly central sewage plant outside the city.

Mobility

From its vantage location, Forbes Town Center is within easy commuting distance from Metro Manila's key destinations through the Global City's efficient road network.

The Makati and Ortigas business districts are a short drive away via the Edsa Kalayaan flyover, McKinley Road or C-5 Road. The C-5's recently opened Sampaguita West Ramps 1 and 2 and Collector Distribution Road make it easy to reach the southwest area of the Global City, as well as Taguig, Pasig, Quezon City, Parañaque and Southern Metro Manila.

Inside the Global City, business hubs such as McKinley Business Park, e-Square IT Park and Net One are mere minutes away. Just as accessible are the American, British and Japanese schools and recreational spots such as Sports Kamp, Par 43 Mini-Golf and NBC Tent. Other well-situated conveniences are Metro Market!, PriceSmart Membership Shopping, MC Home Depot and an upcoming facility of St. Luke's Medical Center.

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INVITATION TO BID

The AFP Retirement and Separation Benefits System (RSBS) invites interested parties to purchase by way of sealed bids the following properties on cash or term basis (minimum 30% down payment and 16% interest rate per annum, maximum of 7 years to pay):

Item No.	Description	Location	Minimum Floor Price
06-1	259.7 sqm residential lot	No. 12 Rimas St. Proj. 2, Q.C.	P 2,428,195.00
06-2	4 residential lots 300 sqm each	Brgy. Pimienta, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 455,855.00
06-3	2 residential lots 500 sqm each	Brgy. Prado, Umingan, Pangasinan	P 243,600.00
06-4	House & Lot F/A 48 sqm L/A 198 sqm	L13, B15, AFP Village, San Mateo, Rizal	P 267,877.00
06-5	9,448 sqm industrial lot	Bulacan Agro Industrial Subdivision Calumpit, Bulacan	P 30,516,700.00
06-6	367 sqm residential lot	L12, B6, Snra. De la Paz Subd. Sumulong, Antipolo	P 892,500.00
06-7	241 sqm residential lot	L6, B11, Lopez Subdivision, Brgy. Tugbungan, Zamboanga City	P 20,485.00
06-8	House & Lot F/A 152 sqm L/A 208 sqm	L6, B32, Phase II, Soldier's Hills Subd., Muntinlupa City	P 707,200.00
06-9	120 sqm residential lot	L4, B3, Kameha-meha St., Kingsville Subd., Antipolo	P 367,200.00
06-10	3,000 sqm residential lot 13,000 sqm agri lot	Brgy. Cajimos, Romblon, Romblon	P 1,538,310.00
06-11	House & Lot F/A 42 sqm L/A 120 sqm	L45 & 47, B4, Alpha Stréet Northmatrixville Subd., Caloocan	P 509,320.00
06-12	322 sqm residential lot	L70, B1-A Diamond Park Victoria Homes, Muntinlupa City	P 547,400.00

Interested bidders may obtain bidding documents starting March 13, 2006 upon payment of non-refundable fee of P500.00 from the Office of the Head, Property Management, 3/F, RSBS Bldg., Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

A Pre-bidding Conference is scheduled on March 23, 2006 at 10:00 AM, Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders or their representatives on March 28, 2006 at 10:00 AM at the Central Meeting Room A, RSBS, Camp Aguinaldo, Q. C.

For further inquiries, you can call MS. LIZA HIZON or MR. DARWIN MANZANO at telephone numbers 9124718 or 9114071 local 249.

(PDI-March 10, 11 & 12, 2006)

READY FOR TURNOVER

This month, ROMA and Venezia, the two latest building additions to East Ortigas Mansions' resort-residences, will be ready for turnover. The construction of the additional mid-rise condominiums started late last year and is proceeding ahead of schedule. Roma and Venezia both have 55 units with floor areas ranging from 43 to 65 square meters each. Located on Ortigas Avenue Extension, the condo buildings making up East Ortigas Mansions 2 are part of DMCI Homes' resort-residential development in Pasig City. Interested parties may call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com for further information.



Cost effectiveness . . .

From page B2-1

iar with. Fortunately, many of these can be avoided with some advance planning.

Simple design

Green buildings that are cost-effective are characterized by such traits as simplicity of design, green construction practices and good materials specifications. These buildings and homes are designed for durability and easy maintenance.

The layout of the exterior walls of a house has a direct influence on the total cost of the project. For example, an L-shaped house is more expensive to build than a square-shaped house because it will require 25 percent more exterior wall area. At today's cost of building materials, that would be a notable difference, in terms of concrete hollow blocks, steel bars, plastering, roof, ceiling, painting, etc.

With a simple and compact design, there is also ease in construction, that results in less mistakes and less wastage of materials caused by a complicated design.

Other strategies

The other strategies that have to do with operations and maintenance of the house are also important to consider.

Features like maximizing the use of daylighting and natural ventilation, the use of natural materials, rainwater collection system, recycling of water for flushing and irrigation, and composting of waste all have a positive effect on the economic as well as physical well-being of the homeowner.

Education is the key

The whole project team starting with the owners, the professional and others should be made aware of green issues for sustainable building. This means they need to have a clear vision of what a green building is.

This will entail well-informed thoughtful choices about design, material specs and construction practices. We all have to invest in educating ourselves about the issues.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5289

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

ELECTRICAL WIRE Under GE-513648 Approved Budget PHP 2,599,800.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Alejandro V. Andres starting March 02, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on March 15, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property, and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of March 31, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

(PDI-March 11 & 17, 2006)

Chairman -- Bids and Awards Committee II

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Bldg. 5, 2nd Floor Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5289

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND BID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

CAPILLARY TUBING Under GQ-516719 Approved Budget PHP 3,000,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o Alejandro V. Andres starting March 02, 2006, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held March 14, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to, and registered with the PNOC-EDC Supply, Property, and Materials Management Division at the above address, and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Purchasing Office Wall Clock Time) of March 30, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. Late bids shall not be accepted.

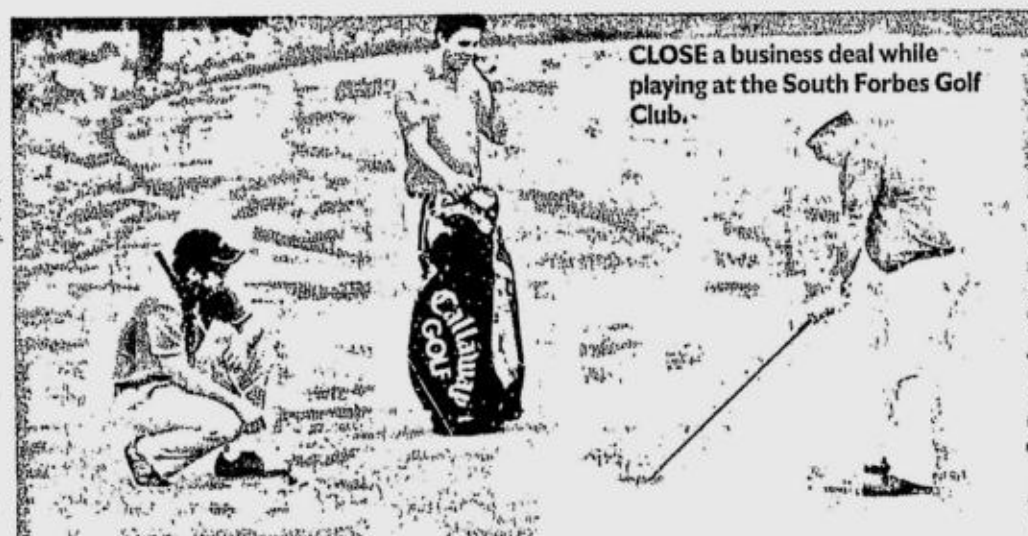
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(PDI-March 11 & 17, 2006)

Chairman -- Bids and Awards Committee II

SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 2006



CLOSE a business deal while playing at the South Forbes Golf Club.

Business and pleasure at South Forbes

WHEN BUSINESS-MINDED INDIVIDUALS invest, they look for a site where they can set up and grow a thriving business and indulge in life's long list of pleasures on a regular basis. As the cliché goes, it's best to hit two birds with one stone: a winning investment.

Among all the projects in the South, one fully master-planned project combines the top elements of business and pleasure. South Forbes Golf City, an integrated golf resort city located in Metro Sta. Rosa, has the perfect mix of commercial and leisure components.

Mixed-use complex

The Esplanade, a five-story mixed-use complex, will rise on this new city's main artery, South Boulevard. Enterprising family heads can lease out a commercial unit on the ground floor and set up a coffee house, service shop, or restaurant.

They will surely get a steady stream of clients from the managers and executives at the nearby technopark and from students and faculty of the area's top schools such as St. Scho and La

Salle. At any time of the day, these entrepreneurs can also tend to their family's needs at their deluxe residential unit upstairs, thus spelling total business and family convenience.

Near The Esplanade will rise another solid venue for business: the South Forbes City Center. It will feature top restaurants, movie houses, and boutiques. Entrepreneurs can literally watch their business grow as this city's population grows exponentially. To unwind, they can take a short walk along the lagoon with the family. They can also treat business associates to a practice round at the all-new South Forbes Driving Range, conveniently tucked in a strategic area at the City Center.

Good deal

The South Forbes Driving Range duplicates the playing conditions in South Forbes' very own world-class golf course: the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club. Designed by the International Management Group (IMG), the South Forbes Golf Club takes advantage of the site's hilly terrain and offers golfers magnificent views of Mt.



SHOPPERS will like the wide array of boutiques, restaurants and entertainment options at the South Forbes City Center.

Makiling and Laguna de Bay.

If you're a business-minded person, then here's one really good deal for you to ponder. The free golf membership that comes along with every lot and condominium purchase at South Forbes makes it a sure investment that will yield not just high returns, but a lot of pleasure in the future. Imagine yourself securing a deal while playing with your prospective business partner at the South Forbes Golf Club. Or playing basketball or tennis at the South Forbes Leisure Club with your overseas-based relatives. Or have an afternoon of relaxation with the love of your life at the South Forbes hotel's spa and wellness center.

South Forbes' affiliation

Mixing business and pleasure doesn't end at South Forbes, however. South Forbes' affiliation with the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub entitles you to a grand time at the greens in 42 top golf courses worldwide.

If you love traveling to the US West Coast, then you can play golf at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco with your foreign business counterparts. Over at the East Coast, you can play doubles tennis at The Fox Valley Club in New York. If you love touring Europe, then you can play squash at the Golf & Country Club Fleesensee in Germany.

It's best to secure your investment position this early. Inquire about a lot or condominium unit investment at South Forbes now. Simply call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or visit www.southforbes.com.

Wilcon's completeness shines at WorldBex

BEING COMPLETE MEANS having all the best and more...

Wilcon Builders Supply, the pioneer in homebuilding depot in the Philippines, mounted the most complete display—with all the world's best brands under the spotlight—in its very own eight-booth pavilion at the well-attended 11th WorldBex show at the World Trade Center this week.

Known nationwide for its ceramic tiles, Wilcon is displaying its best lineup of imported tile brands such as the Novabell, Saime, Isla and Candia from Italy; and Alcalages, Grespania, Rocersa, Keros and Tesany from Spain.

Wilcon also highlighted its pavilion with the newest vitreous china products (known locally as sanitary wares) of Karat and Kohler. These companies are known for their bold and classical designs that appeal to those with discriminating taste.

Aside from this, Wilcon is also showcasing the newest Ariston water heaters, and the latest tile cutters from Spanish tile expert Rubi.

Completeness

Rosemarie Bosch Ong, Wilcon's executive vice president for marketing, said their participation at the 11th WorldBex is aimed at showing the "completeness" of the five Wilcon Builder's Depots and the eight Wilcon Builder's Supply branches all

over the country.

"Wilcon's WorldBex display offers just a glimpse of what we offer at our stores. Our slogan 'Build Anything. We Have Everything' says it all. People can come to us if they want to build anything. We truly have everything," she explained.

Wilcon has been a consistent leader in the construction supply retail industry since its inception in 1977. In 2003, it reinvented itself by introducing its own depot concept—opening its first mall-like store on Alabang-Zapote Road adjacent to the posh Ayala Alabang Village and BF Homes subdivisions. From there, Wilcon depots have also emerged in strategic areas such as Libis and Balintawak, both in Quezon City, and Pasong Tamo in Makati. Last year, another one also opened on Quirino, in Novaliches, Quezon City. The company is gearing for another depot opening in Filinvest, Alabang this year.

Freedom of choice

According to Ong, the Wilcon depot concept is hinged on the customers' fundamental freedom of choice.

"We want customers to exercise their freedom of choice in a very comfortable and convenient venue. We strive to maintain the look and feel of a shopping mall instead of a warehouse. And we have an army of well-trained personnel ready to assist customers for their every need," she said.

MGS partners with Stone 2000, joins Worldbex 2006

A SIX-YEAR PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN MGS Corp., a leading diversified construction firm, and Stone 2000, an architectural and finishing dealership, has become a successful team-up strengthening the business performance of both partners in the highly competitive construction supply sector.

MGS has a product range that includes ready mix, the manufacture of premium homebuilding products, housing construction, land development, trading and distribution.

For its part, Stone 2000 is a dealership network with seven stores in Metro Manila, two showrooms in the Alabang and Ortigas Home Depots, and a shop in the Calabarzon area. Over the past 20 years, Stone 2000 has grown from a simple marble and stone store, into a dealer of building stones and blocks in 1996, to its current specialization in architectural and finishing product lines since 1999.



ALGENIO

Distribution

According to Stone's chief operating officer Naps Algenio, in the year 2000, the company started distributing MGS

stone pavers, as well as providing installation and maintenance services for these products.

"Our collaboration with MGS has strengthened our distribution network and increased the volume of our prospective clients, who are mostly homeowners and commercial establishments," Algenio says.

He adds that his company has chosen to carry stone pavers by MGS because of the latter's quality standards and efficiency in meeting the demands of clients. MGS pavers are the result of process innovations involving patented technology for concrete masonry production from Besser Inc. based in the United States.

Superiority, strength

MGS pavers and other lines are known for superiority and strength as construction materials in the middle to upscale market for premium homebuilding products. Leading developers, architects and contractors often prefer to use these products in their small to large residential, commercial, institutional, industrial and special projects.

Algenio says MGS pavers are noted for their esthetic and functional applications, adding value to construction projects with their durability, looks and maintenance qualities. He says that MGS pavers at Stone 2000 which are most saleable are the Zigzag and Hispania designs, in terra cotta, gray, yellow and green colors. These pavers are widely used in the construction of homes and com-

mercial centers.

MGS is currently participating in the 11th World Building Expo (Worldbex), a major annual exhibition of building and construction products, equipment, services and specialists, which runs until today at the World Trade Center, Pasay City.

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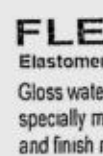
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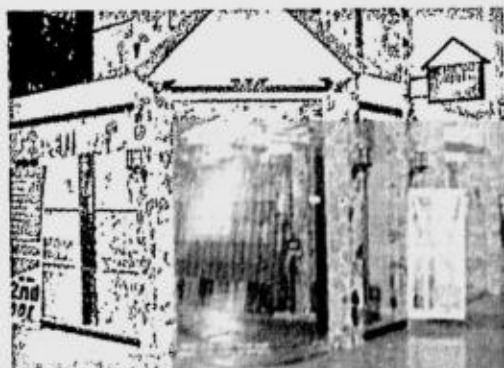
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CUSTOMERS are welcomed by the unique design and layout of the Stone 2000 showroom.

PROPERTY

One Legazpi Park starts welcoming residents

LESS THAN FOUR YEARS SINCE the project was launched, multi-awarded residential condominium One Legazpi Park finally opened its doors and began welcoming eager residents in December last year, even earlier than promised.

The sold-out project recently celebrated the culmination of its many milestones in an intimate blessing ceremony that gathered representatives from high-end real estate developer Ayala Land Premier and other groups integral to its smooth and speedy delivery.

Kate Ilagan, Ayala Land's assistant vice president for ALP's residential buildings group, said the special occasion was a celebration of the project team's accomplishments.

Said Ilagan: "We wanted to gather the entire project team and show our appreciation for all the effort and dedication that went into this project because it was really a collaboration. Everybody involved—from our technical people to our sales people to our customer relations unit—had a specific role to play and contributed to the award-winning project that One Legazpi Park is today."

Safest project

Launched in March 2002, One Legazpi Park has garnered accolades for its attention to safety during construction, said Ilagan.

"The construction was very smooth. There were no problems or mishaps. The project was awarded Makati City's Safest and Best Project in 2003. It was also given the 5 Million Safe Man Hours award by its general contractor EEI Corp. Typical of any Ayala Land Premier project, nothing was compromised in terms of quality and schedules," she added.

Preselling

Being able to sell all its units in such a short span of time is a con-

siderable feat, she enthused.

Said Ilagan: "We were able to sell all of the units within the construction period, which is more than other competing projects were able to do. Some of our competitors already have the building finished but have yet to finish selling their units. In the case of One Legazpi Park, we're fully sold. We presold a total of 366 residential units and four commercial units based on plans and a promise that we will deliver at a certain time. The fact that people bought all the 370 units, is a testament to their belief in Ayala Land. We promised to deliver in the first quarter of 2006, and so here we are."

With the successful completion of the 45-story building, city dwellers interested in other Ayala Land residences can expect to see constant enhancement and a reflection of the same highest quality standards.

According to Ilagan, One Legazpi Park has raised the bar of fine city living. "This is a testimony to our promise to our buyers. Anybody who's interested in any Ayala Land Premier project can really be assured of value for money," she added.

Genuine quality living

Ayala Land Premier is the first, full-line real estate developer to meet the needs of discerning homeowners. It will continue the legacy of years of premium residences, set amid equally prime locations, giving only the best and most luxurious options in real estate.

Innovatively designed and exceptionally engineered, Ayala Land Premier developments are true testaments to what constitutes genuine quality living. For further inquiries about other Ayala Land Premier residential projects, please call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph or e-mail ayala-sales@ayalaland.com.ph.

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The A. Venue on the rise

CONSTRUCTION OF THE A. Venue Hotel and Residential Suites on Makati Avenue is now in full swing as the tower's three-basement levels, three-podium basement parking, and ground floor have been finished. Ongoing roughing-ins of electrical, plumbing, sanitary and fire protection works have now reached the fourth floor level, which will soon house most of the amenities of the high-end residential tower.

Felino Lao, marketing director of Antel Land Holdings Inc., the developer of The A. Venue tower, expressed that every aspect of construction epitomizes the current thrust of the project, which is to offer five-star amenities and quality to its future tenants.

Said Lao: "As the developer, we want to deliver the best product to our future clients. We want to ensure that every part of the development is up to our five-star standard of quality. That is why we don't implement shortcuts in any part of our construction. We don't want to sacrifice quality just to speed up our turnover of the project."

Design technique

Upon completion of the project in the third quarter of 2007, the new tower will rise to 28 floors with 356 well-appointed one-bedroom, two-bedroom and three-bedroom residential suites and will offer a "beamless and column-free design" that will ensure more usable space and volume for the interior design of the hotel and residential suites.

Known as "structure as design" this modern construction technique is being implemented by Edward Co Tan and Architects, the project's principal architect.

Tan explained that the design technique "will avoid the traditionally protruding column or wall that can be seen in old buildings, but instead include both in the thickness of the wall to lessen the cross-sectional area or wall surface."

5-star amenities

Apart from the cutting-edge design, future residents of the 1.7-hectare prime tower on Makati Avenue will also be able to enjoy five-star amenities such as a grand ballroom, three interconnected 220-sq-m swimming pools, a coffee shop, indoor game, home theater lounge, fitness center, daycare center, library and business center, a children's playground and a his and hers sauna facility.

Another added plus that will soon attract more investors is the now rising A. Venue Events Mall, a three-story edifice that will be the newest premier entertainment and leisure venue and slated to be turned over by the end of July 2006.



HOW the new A. Venue Hotel and Residential Suites and the new A. Venue Events Mall will look like when completed, as seen from Makati Avenue.

The new mall will complement the amenities of the new A. Venue Hotel and Residential Suites, providing a self-contained community wherein future residents can experience a themed lifestyle unlike any other, where home and leisure merges and is enhanced further by a five-star difference embodied by the new tower.

The A. Venue Hotel and Residential Suites is the latest project of Antel Land Holdings, a real estate firm with 18 years of experience.

Noted achievements

Among the noted achievements of Antel are three corporate buildings and five residential condominiums, two subdivisions totaling 250 hectares in Cavite plus its joint-venture developments with the Manila Southwoods Golf and Country Club and the MRT 3 Edsa.

Antel is currently engaged in three other landmark projects. These are the 200-hectare Antel Grand Village in Gen. Trias, Cavite, an urbanized oasis set amid the provincial backdrop of small-town Philippines; The Centropolis Communities in Sucat, Parañaque, the newly rising affordable high-rise resort and urban club; and The Tresora in Las Piñas, a cluster of low-rise buildings in a self-contained community. Centropolis and Tresora are joint-projects with its sister company, TKRL Realty and Development Corp.

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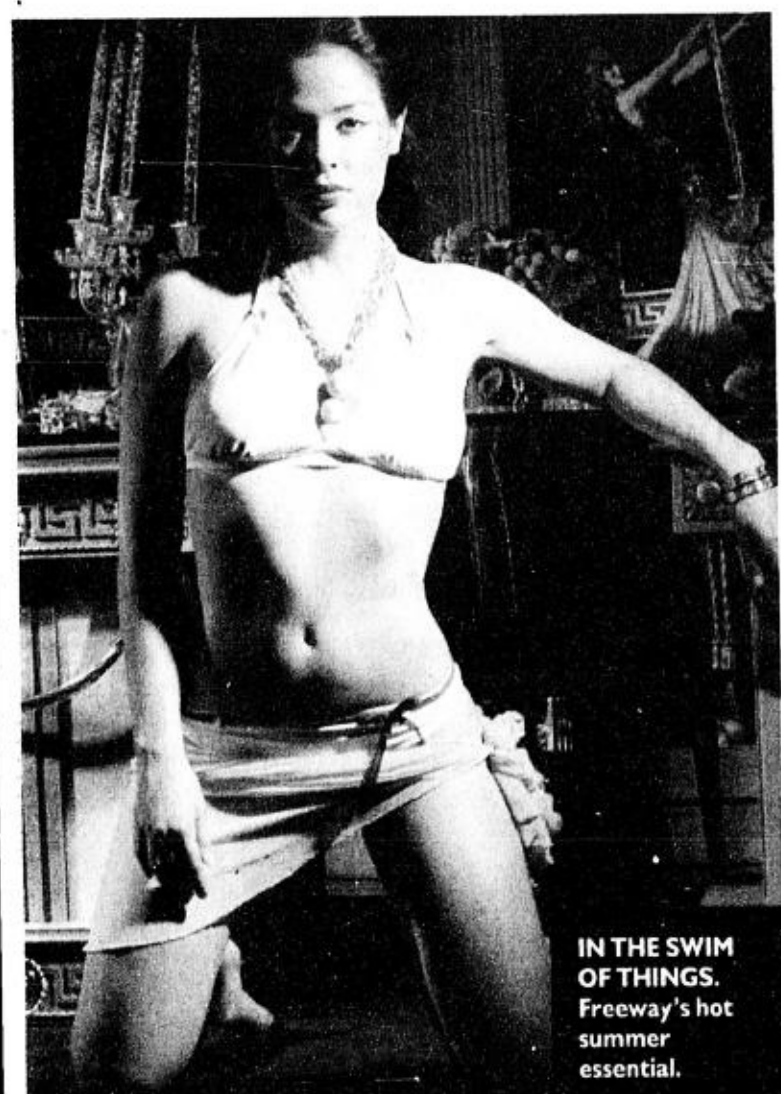
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DID YOU NOTICE THE BOT-tle neck traffic right after you drive through Guadalupe? Nope, it's not because motorists are getting off their cars to get a glimpse of my billboard. Right after my MTV Bling (he he, shameless plug) giant poster, is a vision of a goddess in a white mailot that is causing quite a commotion (I hope that there has been no accidents in that area—though I won't doubt if there have been already)—rush hour or no rush hour.

If the whole freeway of this historic stretch was just filled with Cindy Kurleto in swimsuits, I would have no qualms marching down Epifanio delos Santos Avenue, even at the peak of this summer's heat.

I was lucky to have been granted a whole afternoon with the Freeway image model as we radio-hopped from one station to another to promote our new shows for our favorite music station. The minute she walked into the office of NU 107, there was a collective gasp.

Freeway fairy

Cindy just has this infectious glow that makes your jaw drop. I am an admirer of all things beautiful, and this girl just tops my list. Forgive me for my Cindy worshipping.

"Things are just getting better and better for me," she smiles and manages to light up

Tim Yap



the whole room. The female DJ who was interviewing us is about to turn lesbian. "I am so happy and in love!" I wanna hug her and savor the sensation but I stop myself.

I learned that there are not just one, but two men in Cindy's life right now. The first one is this British expat (let's hide him under the name of Daniel—lucky bloke) who is making Cindy's cheeks blush even brighter, and the other guy—is her dad. Cindy has always looked up to her dad, and now her dad is here living with his favorite daughter. They would spend nights hanging out at Rockwell, bowling or just hanging out.

"Other guys would look at me and think—uh, oh—why is she with a much older man? Not knowing he's my father." Personally, I don't care how many men share Cindy—we can all have a piece of her. Just drive by Edsa, and look for the Freeway lips logo, and send Cindy a flying kiss back.

On this page for our dear Super! readers, exclusive snapshots of a summer full of Cindy's.

Now that's hot.

PHOTOS BY WESLEY VILLARICA • MAKEUP BY XENG ZULUETA FOR SHU UEMURA • HAIR BY JANET DE RAMA



FREWAY FEMME. Cindy is the sexiest survivor there is.

Ain't over 'til it's over!

SOMEONE ALWAYS USED to remind me that you have to do what you can, with what you have, where you are. Filipinos out here are extremely good at doing this, all the while keeping their dignity despite hardships in their lives while in a foreign land. Of course most OFWs are concerned with more serious issues that have little to do with figuring out how to recreate home stuff through the arts and crafts, but, we might learn a little something from their resourcefulness and *abilidad*!

To think we're from a place where if you can afford something basic like eat 3 full meals a day, then you are already considered lucky, sometimes we just need to calm down on the wanting and the buying, and feeling guilty for not having the latest version of something. Yes I'm quite aware that this is coming from a product endorser, but, in the end, we just really do not have to have it all! Okay, for some I should at least say ... we don't need to have it all, ALL the time! Tsk tsk! Make use of what you already have, reinvent it, and feel good about it! Here are 10 happy ways to reuse things around the house 'cos the second time can surely be sweeter! Have fun!

Eye-glass frames

If you have kid sisters or brothers who have outgrown old but super fun children's sunglasses, you don't need to throw them out or give them away just yet. If they've lost the glass lenses, then even better, because you can use the lens parts of the eye glass frame as picture frames for close up shots or wide shots of nice views from places you've been to. Colors like hot pink or red, for example, work well with glossy

KACE'S CAROUSEL

KC Concepcion



black and white photos.

CDs

Scrap CDs can be strung together with nylon strings and hung up as retro curtains. Others use beads, while others use old CDs—mostly CDs that contained documents and word files instead of something sacred like music. You can ask your colleagues or someone who works in an office to compile old CD-ROMs for you. The most interesting part is when the sun reflects on the discs and bounces onto your walls like bubbles. The first time I saw the effect it reminded me of how I would play with the "dancing bubbles" reflecting on airplane seats while light from the windows bounced off my *lolo's* watch. Kids could have fun with this!

Earrings

When funky earrings go out of style and you would hate to throw them away, you can turn them into table napkin rings! Just remove the backs with pliers, hot-glue them onto a cord and tie them into a circle to form the rings. They will make table settings look special even when using cheap paper napkins.

'Bayongs' and baskets

Medium-sized fruit baskets or little bayongs mounted on the wall or resting on a desk can make for a cute, functional, contained spot for invitations, notes, pictures, bills, incoming and outgoing letters, catalogues, or magazines. You can mount the

baskets up on the wall, one on top of the other or in a row, about four inches apart, using nails and screws. You can sew things into them for a subtle personal touch, too. Just make hand-written or computerized labels that you can attach to the baskets with masking tapes ("Bills," "Mail," "Sketch Designs," "Ideas," "Don't Forget," etc.). For younger sisters and brothers, you can hit two birds with one stone: Have bonding time fun and motivate them to do homework, too. Ask them to help you paint the baskets, or color the labels for them, then show them their new homework in-box! I'm sure my sister would enjoy doing her super cool preschool homework if she sees it popping out of a big, red, ladybug!

Magazines

Speaking of magazines, my mother and I can (ridiculously) fill up a whole attic with just old beauty and teen magazines alone. If you are like us, then it might be a good idea to spend one whole day sorting out the articles you still find useful, putting them into clear folders or plastic portfolios, and then separating the parts of the magazines you won't read anymore. Once you've done that, you can send them to Samahan ng Muling Pagkabuhay Multipurpose Cooperative (727-0681) to make woven paper boxes and creations that you can use for gifts, gatherings, or give-aways for events. Three years ago, for my debut giveaways, we sent them the stacks of old magazines that ranged from the 1980s black and white prints in English to the neon pop colors you find in Japanese mags of the year 2000. It made it interesting for us to see them make containers out of these dusty reads, but in the end when the boxes were made, we filled them up with scented poutpourri and crystal bracelets/necklaces for all the girls at the party. The attic was cleared up in no time and the giveaways were fabulous! Heads up though—people who receive these

Here are 10 happy ways to reuse things around the house 'cos the second time can surely be sweeter!



PHOTO BY MARK NILDAG

magazine paper creations will surely see what you're reading! :)

Plastics

Take-out plastic Tupperwares, trinkets and things over here, Chinese take-out doesn't come in NY fashion. Instead of tall cardboard boxes with aluminum wires, we get plastic Tupperware-type containers. What's nice about them (especially the hard-plastic ones that come with a decent cover) is that you can clean up the containers, and reuse them as jewelry boxes, a piggybank, candy bowls, key holders, or as open storage for things like tea bags. You can wrap them up and staple some felt paper (black, wine red, dark orange, or purple work well) around the containers, then hot-glue trinkets and things to cover them up with style. Seashells, pieces of broken glass, colored beads that came from broken bracelets and accessories ... anything small or light or eccentric enough, really ... It all depends on your theme! You can even take a wine-cork and stick it at the center of the plastic lid (hopefully your take out came with one) to use as a fancy handle to

open up your new memory box, which would hold all the tickets from your favorite concerts, plays, and shows.

Shot glasses

For an *inuman* session or pica-pica dinner, it could be fun to fill up your extra shot glasses with rock or iodized salt, herbs (like rosemary, oregano, parsley) or chili flakes and other spices. Otherwise, you can use them as ash trays, candle holders, or plate holders if you turn several of them over, put them together to make a stable plane, then have the plates rest on their bottoms.

Baby bottles

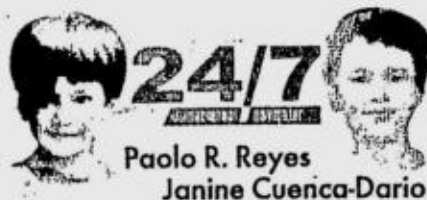
I don't know if you are one to try this out, but just to give you an extra idea to see how far you can go with this ... There is a strange bar here that serves alcoholic beverages in baby bottles. Weird? Well, the basic point of it is that alcohol hits you harder when you down it in this way—so, party-goer, are you one to dance and drink the night away, sucking in the vodka through a tsupon? Hmm ... I don't know!

And the winner is ...

WHEN OSCAR DARK HORSE, "Crash," besieged heavy favorite "Brokeback Mountain's" coming-out ball at the 78th Academy Awards last Monday, it left millions of television viewers worldwide with their mouths agape and a sophisticated, star-studded audience at the Kodak Theater in Los Angeles desperately trying to suppress a "Holy sh-t!" beneath thinly-disguised smiles.

If you're feeling a little slighted that you were ineligible from exercising your voting powers in Hollywood, now's your chance to pretend that you're part of the fashionable award season circle: Nominations are now open for the annual 24/7 Nocturnal Awards 2006!

Got a hot new DJ to die for? A can't-miss cocktail bar? A kick-ass concert you didn't regret dishing out the dough for? Then vote for your 2005 nightlife favorites in these hotly contested categories: Bar or Club, DJ, Restaurant, Music Event, Stage Event and Artist or Live Act.



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

We'd love to name the big winners ourselves, but, since we're big fans of this whole democratic process, we figure you're more than qualified to do the job. Cast your online ballots at mag24-7.com/awards or e-mail us your choices at awards@mag24-7.com by Saturday, March 18.

Quench @ Quisine, 10 p.m. tonight

In salute to Women's Month, the Saturday scene at Quisine (6750 Ayala Ave., Makati, phone: 815-3229) has whipped up quite a cocktail for all you lithe and lovely ladies. With your gaggle of girlfriends in tow, you can now



VOTE now!

quench your thirst for the juiciest chilled mixes (freshly squeezed by DJs Chip de la Calzada and Mac Cunanan) and free-flowing Kamikazes—and Margaritas!—till midnight. Yum!

Deep House feat. DJ Benjo Marquez @ Mezze, March 17

With the dreaded Proclamation 1017 now lifted, things are definitely lookin' up ... to the 2nd floor of Mezze (G/F Greenbelt 2, Ayala Center, Makati, phone: 728-8895) that is. Every Friday, multitiered musical pyrotechnic DJ

Benjo Marquez cooks up an infectious concoction of deep house, Afro-Latin, and garage to keep the good vibes rolling. "I play deep, soulful underground music," shares Benjo. "So expect an eclectic mix!"

What else is Super! happening tonight?

Dance Deluxe with DJ Martin Pulgar at Embassy Super Club; Urban-dub, Chicose, Stonefree, Cambio, Narda, Salindiwa, and Calla Lily at Saguijo; Wake up your Seatmate at Mag.net Café Katipunan; Military Ball at Bed; Apo Hiking Society at SM Megamall Cinema 3; Kitchie Nadal at SM Mall of Asia; 20something Saturdays at Mezze; Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Cuisine; DJ Chip de la Calzada at Quisine; Freshly Squeezed at Citrus; Cynthia Alexander at Conspiracy; Pump Saturdays at Jill's; Fluxxe at 6 Underground; DJ Bad-boy Jeff at Temple; DJs Scratchmark & Bliss at Prince of Jaipur; So Icey at Absinth; Spy at 70s Bistro; Escape & Fairground at Virgin Café.

PAY LESS!

Wine bottles

It would be sad to throw away! They work well as vases (instead of pitchers) for water, juices for breakfast, or chilled cocktails ready to serve. You can also use them as flower vases. Long-stemmed well, orchids look classy in translucent olive green bottles. Paint the glass bottles, tie a ribbon or add a beaded necklace around the bottle necks, or use them for a simple, elegant, organic look that goes with any table setting.

T-shirt quilt

I remember the comfort of my grandmother's homemade quilt from when I was 12 years old living in Boston. Sewing together pieces of old T-shirts with her very hands made it so easy to sleep in. Putting together favorite T-shirts you've outgrown, or putting out squares from your favorite T-shirts could be a little bit of work, but with a little patience you'll have the advantage of reliving happy moments in your dreams! Sewing together a kind of quilt from old, worn-out, but fabulous T-shirts that you don't want to get rid of, gives you the power to put you back in a good mood every time you get cozy with it on a roadtrip to the beach, the mountains, and other travels.

The results will all depend on what kind of person you are and what kind of world you move in, but the philosophy is the same for everyone: Work with what you have, here and now, and hope that you get what you want out of life when you've done this long enough. There's so much more you can create and remember the purpose of doing this is so that nothing great, is thrown to waste. Bisous, beautiful ones, and ciao for now!

New!

PAYLESS INSTANT MAMI

SPICY BEEF FLAVOR

PAYLESS INSTANT MAMI

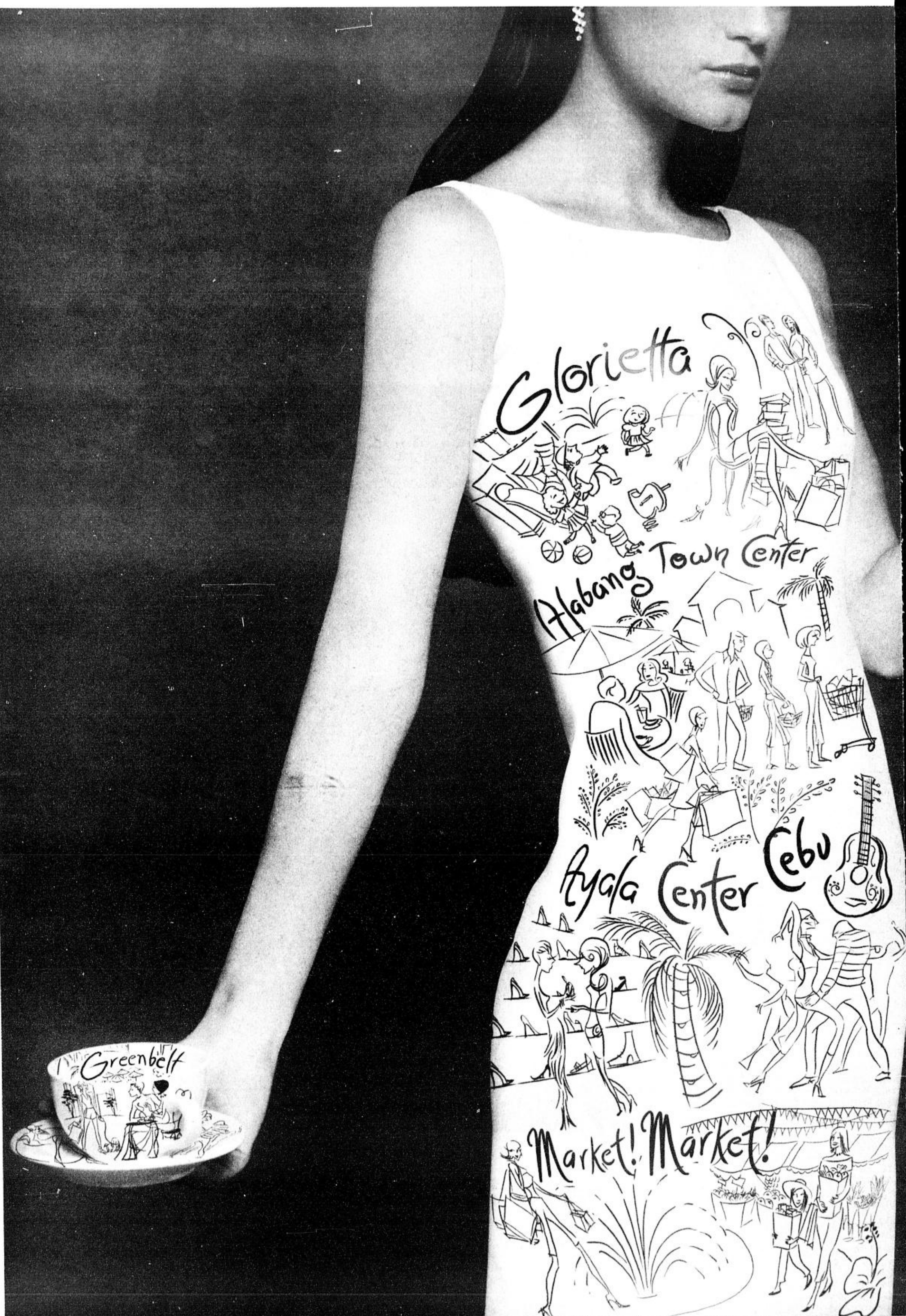
SPICY CHICKEN FLAVOR

***P4.30 lang**

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From lush parks to playgrounds, state-of-the-art cinemas to al fresco cafes, each Ayala Mall is unique in its design and features, offering an unrivaled sense of place to everyone. But the one thing that's common among all Ayala Malls is the rewarding experience that everyone enjoys, whatever their lifestyle maybe. There always will be an Ayala Mall for families to bond and celebrate, lovers to rekindle relationships, businessmen to seal deals, and friends to cherish each other's company.

Each moment spent at Ayala Malls is a celebration of life, a moment worth keeping as memory. Because only at Ayala Malls can everyone have the time of their lives.

Ayala



Glorietta

Greenbelt





His name
was called
and
Christian
Vasquez
screamed
with joy, as
though he
won. And in
some ways,
he really
did

Evicted and ecstatic

By Tim Yap and Pam Pastor
Photos by Pam Pastor

IF YOU WATCHED PINOY BIG Brother Celebrity Edition's last eviction night with your television on mute, you would have thought that model slash actor Christian Vasquez had just been declared the winner. He jumped up and screamed with joy when they called out his name—a strange thing to do for someone who had just been evicted.

But Christian had his reasons. "Sobrang relieved ako. Iba na yung nararamdaman ko nung time na yun. I wanted to go out."

In a special two-on-one with Super!, Christian talked about his life inside and outside the house, the controversies and the biggest lessons he learned during his 29 days with his housemates.

There were many factors that contributed to his desire to leave. "Una yung pag-alis ni Angela (Calina, who left after her house in Cebu was robbed), tapos when we were told about the Leyte tragedy."

But the biggest factor was his children—Christian has two sons, Matthew and Jason, who are 8 and 7 years old. "Naisip ko, life is short. Kulang yung time na binibigay ko sa kids ko. I started feeling guilty. I started asking myself, should I stay inside?"

Ready to leave

Days before the eviction, you can be sure that the three people nominated were praying hard—and Christian was probably the only one praying to be evicted. "Lahat kami nanlalamig. Sila Rustom (Padilla) at Rico (Robles) dahil ayaw pa nilang maalis. Pero ako, nate-tense dahil baka hindi pa ako ma-evict."

And when his name was called, he was ready. "Days before, I started shaving my facial hair. It was a form of cleansing, my way of preparing to go out."

He said tearful goodbyes to his housemates especially to Zanjoe Marudo, Bianca Gonzales and Roxanne Barcelo, the people he became close to inside. "Nung first few days pa lang, kami agad ni Zanjoe yung nag-jive. Wala kaming naging problema, hindi kami nag-argue. Younger brother na yung tingin ko sa kanya. So nung umalis ako, feeling ko nahi-walay ako sa brother ko. Silang tatlo nila Bianca and Roxanne, para ko silang mga kapatid. Nung mga crucial part, sila yung lag-ing kasama ko, kak-wentuhan ko. Lagi silang nagshe-share sa akin."

He recalled how different things were at the beginning of the show. "Nung una, we were all thinking,

ang sarap dito, wala kang gagawin. Di ka na mag-iisip, puro games lang."

Even getting used to the cameras wasn't a problem. "Alam mong may cameras pero hindi mo na naisip buong Pilipinas pala ang nanonood sa'yo."

Christian found ways to amuse himself—by experimenting with different looks, by playing with Woody the pretend dog and the nylon and rock that he used for "fishing" in the pool. He also found a refuge in the kitchen—when it was still outside the house. "Mahilig akong magluto nung yung kitchen nasa labas. That was my sanctuary. It was my own place."

But after a while, life inside the house became more difficult. "Hindi mahirap yung physical. Yung emotional."

Challenge

While inside the house, Christian found himself thinking more and more about his kids. Everything became about his kids—even the challenges. "May challenge na binigay sa akin. You will see your kids pero may kapalit. Body wax, shave ng isang kilay at magfa-fast ako for two days."

Christian seriously considered the offer. "Body wax, ano ba naman yun? Madali lang yun eh. Walang problema, basta makikita ko yung mga kids ko."

But he realized that the challenge might have averse effects on his kids. "Nag-isip ako. Pag nagpa-shave ako ng kilay, mapapanood ng mga bata, mapapanood ng ibang tao. Pag pumasok sila sa school pano pag taksuhin sila? Same with body waxing, wala silang alam dun. Pag nakita nilang ginagawa sa akin, baka magulat sila. So inisip ko, okay lang na isipin

EVICTED/D3

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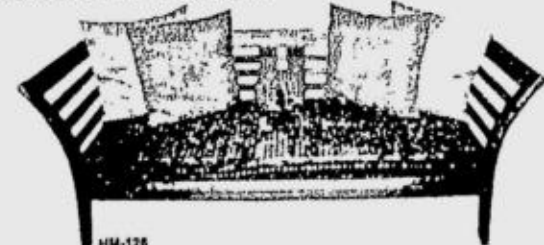
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BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You have an excellent business mind. You also have impeccable taste. You are modern and always abreast of the times. Your lively, clever nature makes you competitive if necessary. (You know how to win.) You're very good at spotting opportunities, and you're not afraid to act on them. Work hard this year for rewards in 2007.

Birthdate of: Douglas Adams, author; Bobby McFerrin, jazz musician; Johnny Knoxville, actor

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is definitely an accident-prone day. Forewarned is forearmed. Allow extra time for everything. Do not rush. Look both directions. You know the drill.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You're very restless and impulsive today! You refuse to be held back or restrained in any way. Just make sure you don't rub somebody the wrong way!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might have an angry or rash response to a friend today. Possibly, somebody else reacts this way to you. Either way, demonstrate grace under pressure. (After all, Leo is the sign of royalty.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Financial matters will not turn out as expected today. Double-check everything having to do with your bank account. There could be sudden surprises here. Guard against breakage or loss regarding your possessions.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Delays and interruptions to your work are inevitable today. Therefore, allow extra time for everything that you do. Expect the worst, and be relieved that it's hardly anything.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Relations with authority figures are tense and unpredictable today. Quite likely, you feel rebellious. You don't want anyone telling you what to do. But is this wise?

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Dragnet dragger
- Convertibles, casually
- Get
- Tumbler
- Breaks free
- Bowzer
- Baum's group
- "Mighty Aphrodite" Oscar winner
- Funny
- Swung around
- Chinese dynasty
- Nauseated
- Incessantly
- Weightlifting exercise
- Tremor
- Cobbler and fian
- Gentle breeze
- One Stooze
- Taro paste
- Rendezvous
- Nothing to talk about?
- Map book
- Grow weary
- Mandikova of tennis
- ...Pel (wrinkly dog)
- Schoolbook
- Boyle or Sellers
- Trumpet blast
- "The Little Foxes" playwright
- Pro tem
- Extol
- Turn one's back on
- Bellies
- Kind of trailer
- Drop-off

DOWN

- Put up in pigstails
- Determination
- Accumulates
- Dennis and Sigourney
- Sterol or triglyceride
- Flush
- Unwavering
- Playful
- prankster
- Sneeze sound
- Lab tech's weight
- Strengthens and tightens
- Shortest book of the Old Testament
- Terror-stricken
- Forklift operator, at times
- Taxing grp.
- Farm output
- Cunard liner, commonly
- Kiwi cousins
- out (daydream)
- Cement that hardens under water
- Old English guard dog
- Gasohol ingredient
- Plush Hyundai
- Most tangy
- Veio
- Trounce
- Glut
- Sill in the fridge
- From the heart
- up (combined)
- Tot rod?
- Ear and spark endings
- Part of U.A.R.
- fixe (obsession)

By James E. Buell Edgewater, FL 3/11/06

Friday's Puzzle Solved

3/11/06

MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

MikroKids!
Mag-Recycle Tayo!
Tuwing Sabado!
Mga Kailangan:

Crayons → Scratch papers → tubig → pintura → crayons

1 Magdrawing ng mga planeta at bituin sa papel gamit ng crayons.

2 Buhanan ng tubig ang papel. Patak-patakan ng pintura. Subukan ang ibat ibang kulay.

3 Patuyuin at TA-DAH! isang painting ng GALAXY!

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TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





People used to recognize me but after the show, I feel that they've gotten to know me deeper and it feels good

Evicted and ecstatic



IN HIS REAL HOUSE. Christian reunited with his beloved housemates—his family.

LIKE THEIR BIG BROTHER. Christian with his kids Matthew and Jason

From page D1

ng mga tao na hindi ko kayang gawin yan. Ako alam ko yung totoo. Yung kids ko, hindi nila alam yung concept nung show, sila ang kawawa. Sila ang maaapektuhan."

To protect his kids, Christian declined. But he still fasted for two days. "Gusto kong i-prove na kaya kong gawin iyon kahit walang kapalit."

Christian's stay at the house was not controversy-free. In fact, a couple of weeks ago, news came out that Robin Padilla wanted to beat him up to defend his brother Rustom. Christian explained the root of that story. "I think it was the night before Angela left for Cebu, malungkot lahat. So nag-a-acting-acting ako dun to entertain them. Siguro may nag-feed kay Robin ng false information na tinutukso ko si Rustom so syempre, na-offend si Robin. Natural, kapatid niya yun eh. Kahit ikaw kapag kapatid mo tinukso ng ibang tao, magagalit ka. Pero okay naman, nag-usap kami ni Robin, nakinig siya sa side ko. Maayos natapos yung usapan namin."

Christian feels that his time inside the house allowed the audience to get to know him better. "People used to recognize me but after the show, I feel that they've gotten to know me deeper and it feels good."

No regrets

If there's one housemate Christian is rooting for, it's Budoy. "Iba talaga si Budoy, ang lalim nung passion niya sa ginagawa niya. Talagang gusto niyang tumulong, hindi yung pera ang habol niya."

He's been out of the house for a week now and Christian has no regrets. His joy at finally being free is evident on his face. "While I was inside the house, inisip ko yung purpose ko kung bakit ako nandun. First yung experience. Tapos yung makatulong ako sa St. Vincent's, yung chosen charity ko. Nagawa ko naman yun. Tapos na yung purpose ko. Ang purpose ko na ngayon is to go out and be with my family. I have to be with my kids."

Christian didn't walk away empty-handed from the house. He won a laptop, a Magic Sing system, a video camera, a trip to Boracay and cash, among other things.

But he feels that the most important things he have brought back with him into the real world are the lessons he learned from Big Brother's house.

Acceptance

There are a lot—and on top of the list are patience and acceptance. "We all know we have different personalities. The house will show you that most people are different from you. Pero kahit hindi kami nagkakatuwa, the best part was we were really trying hard to become friends. Yun yung pinakamaganda dun. We were trying hard para magkaintindihan."

He had other realizations as well. He shared how the housemates were given the task to annoy him and ruin his day on his birthday. And he was oblivious to the whole trick, even thinking that the housemates were trying to annoy Mich. "Kung wala kang masamang iniisip sa tao, hindi ka talaga maaapektuhan kahit anong gawin nila, even if they start whispering in front of you."

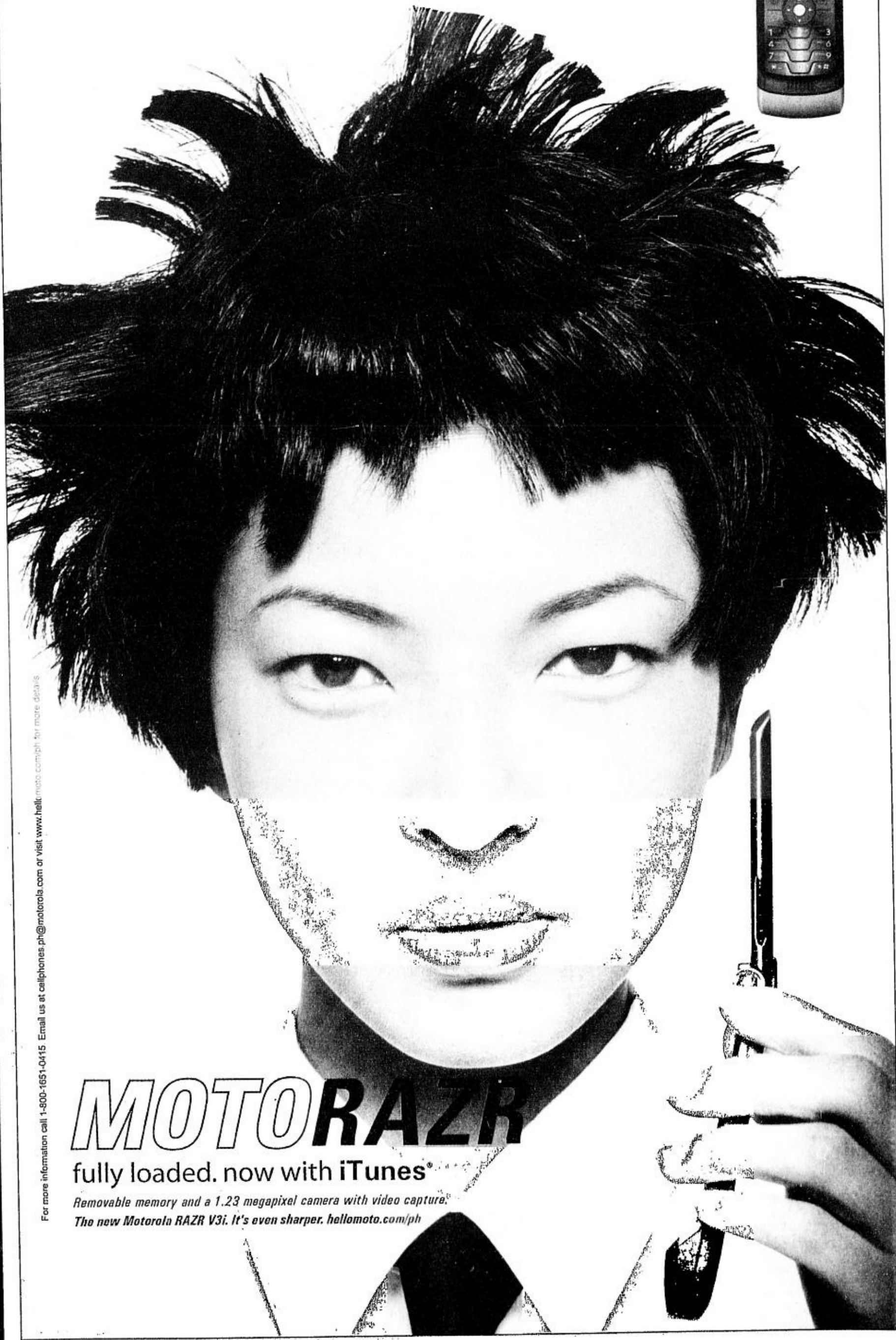
He calls his stay at the house life-changing. "Magbabago talaga yung view mo sa buhay, the way you understand things." Taking his independence away for almost a month has taught Christian to enjoy his reclaimed freedom.

And most importantly, Christian has learned to value the things he used to take for granted. "Nung nandito ako sa labas, anytime pwede akong umuwi ng Bacolod, pwede ko silang makita but I was taking that for granted. I only see my kids five times a year and I just pray with them at night. But now, quality time talaga. Life is short."

Christian was evicted but he screamed like he won—and in some ways, he really did.



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CLASSIC HITS FROM 1999 TO 2006. Hed Kandi at World Trade Center



Where will you be on March 31?

IF GOD IS A DJ, HE WOULD BE IT. DJ Tiësto at PICC

Dance, dance!

Super! countdown begins...

By David Milan

THE SUMMER SEASON HAS DEFINITELY started. Scorching hot days have made everyone sweat like a pig. And it doesn't stop there. The month of March has brought us two events that will make us sweat even more.

March 31 has been marked by most of us as the date to remember as two of the biggest parties in Manila exercise their powers to prove who is the real crowd dominator. It's a head-to-head collision between DJ Tiësto's Asian Tour and Team Big Fish's Hed Kandi. As the tale of the tape goes, Hed Kandi has been a standard for all clubbers, gathering music aficionados on the dance floor. On their helm are Team Kandi's top DJs and Anton Ramos of The Chillout Project.

On the other side of the ring is the world's No. 1 DJ of the moment, DJ Tiësto. The whole Asian continent has been waiting for this musical genius to come to our shores and the time has definitely arrived. Having been the first DJ to perform in the World Olympics, DJ Tiësto has raised the bar when it comes to House music. He has combined different elements in his songs and wittingly come up with amazing tracks that make us all dance 'til we drop. DJ Tiësto's Live concert is truly a musical journey to see.

Let's wait for the date to come and ask ourselves—Where will we be?



TIËSTO: The world's No. 1 DJ. DJ Tiësto

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